



LAST LAUGH FOR LEGEND SLUDGE

BY ALEX ROSS

CANNOCK-BORN singer and comic Ian 'Sludge' Lees has died, aged 74, following a short illness – prompting a flood of tributes from across the West Midlands region.

The hugely popular star kept pub and club audiences laughing for more than six decades. He was one of the old-school comedians who made people laugh through a mix of one-liners and rude mother-in-law tales.

Sludge died at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton on Monday, weeks after being diagnosed with cancer.

On Tuesday, his manager of 40 years, Jake Elcock, led tributes to the comedian made famous by appearances on New Faces, The Comedians and Tiswas.

"He had all the ingredients – he had the face, he had the outrageous outfits, he had the routine and he had the timing," he said.

"Sludge was simply a very funny man. He had a locker full of jokes which kept coming in a car journey all the way from Wolverhampton to Scotland.

Television

"He was irreplaceable, a legend. No-one else could follow him up. His death is a sad loss."

Sludge was born and grew up in Cannock, first appearing as a singing act at pubs in the town at the age of 10, his father Jim, who worked as a miner, following him round with a collection hat.

He first appeared on television a year later on the talent show Carroll Levis Discoveries, performing as a singer.

It led him to join several Midland bands including the Montanas, Telstars, Finders Keepers and Light Fantastic. With the Montanas he sang on the hit Let's Get a Little Sentimental.

His career then changed path in the late 1970s when he started work as a comedian, performing at venues throughout the Midlands. He starred on New Faces All Winners, and Tiswas before getting his big break in 1992, becoming part of Granada TV's The Comedians.

Sludge was a regular fixture at venues in the Midlands and won Midlands' Comedian of the Year on two occasions. He also had a starring role in the Black Country Night Out annual tour.

He was set to join the production this year, which starts at Wolverhampton Grand The-



Ian Sludge Lees in one of his trademark stage outfits

atre on September 11. His last public appearance was an entertainment event at Yardley Ex-Servicemen's Club on March 31 and his final private booking was at a school reunion in Birmingham the following month.

Away from the stage, Sludge was a loyal Wolves supporter and had a season ticket for the North Bank. He was also a keen golf player.

He moved from Cannock to Ocker Hill in Tipton 20 years ago before moving to Middleton, near Welshpool in Powys, living in a mobile home on a residential park. Fellow comedian

Ollie Spencer was due to appear alongside Sludge in the Black Country Night Out tour.

He said: "He was a unique guy, very low-key when you met him, but very, very funny."

"He was a one-off, a whacky comic. Sludge will never be replaced."

Promoter Brian Yeates has worked alongside Sludge for 40 years.

He said: "He never let me down. A very, very funny man who I will personally miss very much."

Cannock's Prince of Wales Theatre manager



Funny together – at home in Tipton with the late Sir Ken Dodd



On stage with Cannock-born rock star Glenn Hughes

Richard Kay last saw Sludge when he appeared at the venue in October last year.

He said: "He was an old-school comic, someone who came up the hard way, through the clubs and cabaret clubs."

"By doing it that way, dealing with the crowds, it made his performance."

"We're all very sad over the news of his death."

Sludge is survived by his long-term partner Diane Mills and his four children, Daniel, Thomas, Amanda and Sophie.

LEISURE

Last orders for 135 pubs across region

MORE than 130 pubs in the Black Country and parts of Staffordshire have shut in the past eight years, latest figures show.

According to the Office for National Statistics, Cannock, Stafford, South Staffordshire and Lichfield have lost 40 pubs (11 per cent). Cannock Chase has lost more than one in five of its pubs since 2010, including The Roebuck in Stafford Road, which shut down earlier this year and remains boarded up. South Staffordshire has 10 fewer pubs while Lichfield has lost five.

Campaigners say they face an uphill battle to keep pubs open.

TRAFFIC

M6 drivers caught up in baa-d hold-up

TWO sheep brought the southbound carriageway of the M6 to a near standstill after getting out of their field.

The two creatures wandered onto the motorway between junction 10a for the M54 and junction 10 for Walsall on Sunday afternoon. Two lanes were closed for nearly an hour while both of the animals were rounded up. All lanes were reopened within an hour, by which time long jams had built up.

POLICE

Thieves make off with lead flashing

POLICE are searching for thieves who took lead flashing from a number of properties in Bond Way, Cannock.

Just over a mile away, offenders were foiled in their attempt to prise the lead from the frame of a bay window at a house in Bath Road. However, they were caught on CCTV as they left the scene.

The thefts happened early on Monday. Anyone with information should contact Staffordshire Police on 101.

INSIDE

ANOTHER KIND OF TEST DRIVE



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Bosses: We take figures very seriously



Dr John Oxtoby

CASES of patients who die in hospital are reviewed to help staff provide the very best care, says a Staffordshire medical director.

Figures released by NHS Digital show there were 190 more deaths at University Hospitals of North Midlands than expected in 2017.

During the 12 months, 4,313 died at the trust, which runs County Hospital in Stafford and Royal Stoke University Hospital, or within 30 days of discharge. Although this number is five per cent more than the 4,123 estimated deaths, the figure falls within the official 'expected' rating for NHS trusts, which allows for leeway over estimates.

Dr John Oxtoby, medical director at University Hospitals of North Midlands, said the trust takes the figures 'incredibly seriously'.

He said that mortality rates are monitored long-term so that staff can keep any eye out for any patterns that might require further investigation.

The latest NHS Digital figures come from the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator which was developed following the Stafford Hospital scandal in 2010. An investigation was launched

into the Mid Staffordshire Foundation Trust, which has since been dissolved, by regulators after records showed there were up to 1,200 more deaths than expected between 2005 and 2009.

It led to the Government calling for a public inquiry, which was spearheaded by Sir Robert Francis, whose report published in 2010 confirmed the fears of many patients and relatives revealing the full extent of substandard care.

Speaking about the latest figures, Dr Oxtoby said: "Our organisation has a strong focus on reviewing cases of patients who die in hospital."

Watchdog to dissect hospital death rate

MORE hospital patients in Staffordshire died than were expected to last year, according to shock new figures.

And Wolverhampton's New Cross Hospital posted the worst unexpected death rate in the country - 475 more deaths than had been estimated.

Officials estimated there should have been 4,123 deaths at the University Hospitals of North Midlands Trust (UHNMT) or within 30 days of discharge in 2017.

However, 4,313 people died - five per cent more than had been estimated. The figure falls within the official 'expected' rating for NHS trusts, which allows for 12 per cent leeway.

UHNMT bosses said the figures are taken 'incredibly seriously' and are monitored to look for trends.

Healthwatch Staffordshire works on behalf of the public, holding the NHS to account. Executive director Elizabeth Leary said: "The higher-than-expected number of deaths is concerning.

Higher

"Healthwatch will be looking closely at the statistics to identify which groups are particularly affected and ask the hospital and clinical commissioning group for an explanation for this."

The statistics were compiled in the latest NHS Digital report on hospital mortality rates, and show that 13 trusts were categorised as having higher death rates than expected.

They include the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, which was the worst in the country with 475 more deaths than were predicted. The trust recorded 2,654 deaths in 2017, 22 per cent higher than the estimate of 2,179.

The figures come from the Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator. A similar form of data analysis helped to uncover the Mid Staffs hospital scandal in 2010, which saw between 400 and 1,200 patients die as a result of poor care between January 2005 and March 2009 at Stafford Hospital

Book reveals tales of war tribunals



Authors John Babb, from Wolverhampton, and Gerry Barton, from Rugeley, with their new book

HE was only a teenager, but shoe salesman Fred Spinks already had a huge weight on his shoulders.

All three of his brothers were in the Army in the First World War and his mother was a widow.

His sister's husband had also been wounded and was on his way home. So the 19-year-old, who worked at Frisby's in Walsall, applied for absolute exemption to conscription on the grounds of conscience and hardship to his family.

A local tribunal gave him a one-month temporary exemption.

Less than a year later, Mr Spinks, who had lived in Hednesford, died in action in France while serving with the 10th Battalion Lincolnshire Regiment.

Now, his story features in a new book called Who Does Want to Kill Anyone, written by Gerry Barton, from Rugeley, and John Babb, from Wolverhampton.

The book includes many other case studies, most obtained through Staffordshire Records Book.

Mr Barton said: "Fred Spinks's story is typical of the many in South Staffordshire who sought exemption from conscription on grounds of conscience.

"It's a fascinating and, in some ways, troubling part of the First World War story."

The book is available by emailing BBBNStaffs@hotmail.com and is priced at £9.99.

Carillion: 356 more are made redundant

ANOTHER 356 of the remaining staff employed in Carillion have been made redundant by the Official Receiver.

The latest redundancies come six months after the Wolverhampton-based construction and support services group went into liquidation.

The Official Receiver said a further 21 jobs have been transferred to new suppliers over the past week and, in total, more than 13,500 jobs have been saved.

The 356 are leaving the business as their roles are no longer required but support is available to help them find new work.

"Staff have been professional throughout the liquidation and we will continue to engage with staff, their elected representatives and unions as arrangements are confirmed," the Official Receiver said in a statement.

The 21 posts transferred to new suppliers take the total number of jobs saved to 13,516 - 74 per cent of the pre-liquidation workforce - and 2,778 jobs (15 per cent) have been made redundant through the liquidation process.

A further 1,277 employees have left during the liquidation through finding work, retirement or for other reasons.

Some 650 workers are being retained so Carillion can deliver the remaining services it is providing for public and private sector customers until decisions are taken on remaining contracts.

Woman seriously injured in hit-run

A 23-YEAR-OLD woman from Cannock was seriously injured in a hit-and-run incident.

The collision happened at 3.45pm on Saturday when a dark-coloured vehicle hit a red Ford Fiesta, which in turn collided with a white Mitsubishi recovery truck on the A5 near Oak Lane.

Police said the dark-coloured vehicle did not stop, and officers are now hunting for the vehicle as well as its driver.

Staffordshire Police said in a statement that the woman was taken to Royal Stoke University Hospital by ambulance and was later said to be in a critical condition.

"The driver of the recovery truck, a 24-year-old man from Sandbach, was not injured. Officers want to speak to anyone who witnessed the collision."

Branch set to meet

THE Cannock branch of the Royal Engineers Association hold their monthly meeting on Monday, August 6, at 8pm. The venue is the Ex-Servicemen's Club in Walsall Road, Cannock. All Sappers past and present, and RE Reservists, are welcome to attend. Call 01543 423319.

Police team to trace people who go missing

A NEW policing team has been launched to help find missing people more quickly.

Staffordshire Police's Missing Person Investigation Team, which will comprise nine constables and two missing persons officers, will serve the whole county.

It works with operational police officers to assist with low and medium-risk missing person investigations.

The team will enhance the force's response when anyone goes missing, reducing the chance of them coming to harm.

The team aims to reduce pressure on frontline officers by taking on desk-based investigations such as liaising with families of the missing person, speaking to witnesses, screening CCTV footage, obtaining mobile phone data and coordinating with relevant partner agencies. Previously frontline officers had responsibility to complete all missing person inquiries.

The introduction of the new team will mean that these officers will now be able to spend more time physically going to search for missing people, as well as respond to other emergency incidents.

Senior officers identified a need to develop the force's response to missing person inquiries as the number reported in Staffordshire increased to 4,860 incidents in 2017-18.

Five in hospital after M6 crash

FIVE people were taken to hospital following a crash involving two lorries and a car on the M6.

The incident happened on the southbound carriageway between junctions 15 and 14 at 4.35am on Friday. A teenager and two children were among those taken to hospital.

A West Midlands Ambulance Service spokesman said: "A teenage boy, who had been travelling in the car, received treatment at the scene for serious injuries before being transported to Royal Stoke University Hospital.

"A boy and a girl were taken to the same hospital with less serious injuries. A woman was treated for cuts to her face and hip pain and also taken to Royal Stoke University Hospital, as was a man, with minor injuries."

Films at cathedral

LICHFIELD Cathedral is hosting a film festival from August 6 to 11. Film-goers can take their own chairs and picnics for the evening showings, opening with Hacksaw Ridge. Tickets are on sale at The Shop at No 9,

Contractor completes warehouse unit



The completed warehouse unit

A MULTI-MILLION POUND warehouse unit at Kingswood Lakeside business park in Cannock has been completed by construction contractor MCS Group on behalf of Opus Land.

Funding for the project came from Bridges Ventures, Finance Birmingham and a grant from Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership.

The completion of the 153,635 sq ft industrial unit marks the successful delivery of the fourth development by Opus Land at Kingswood Lakeside.

The business park site, in Blakeney

Way, was acquired by Opus Land and Bridges Ventures, which has already delivered Veolia, First Choice and the APC regional distribution hub on adjoining plots.

MCS Group managing director Keir Edmonds said: "This has been a fantastic project to be involved in and we have delivered a very high-quality headquarters building on behalf of Opus Land.

"Our team also built an earlier phase of this development which enabled a successful local company to expand and create more jobs for local

people. We're proud to have played our part in creating an outstanding business park in a great location.

"This is one of a number of industrial schemes that we are working on currently."

Victoria Turnbull, joint managing director at development and investment company Opus Land, said: "This project is reflective of one of the many high quality industrial projects Opus Land is currently involved in and MCS has delivered the scheme on time, on budget and to an extremely high quality."

Arsonists are blamed as fire destroys crops

ARSONISTS are suspected of setting fire to a field of crops, sending plumes of black smoke skywards.

Flames ripped through the ripe corn, spreading rapidly across the sun-baked ground in Little Wyrley.

Twenty firefighters battled to contain the blaze involving an area almost the size of 30 football pitches.

Crews from Bloxwich and Cannock were sent to the scene after the alarm was raised at 4.22pm on Thursday.

A West Midlands Fire spokesman said: "It was a fast-moving fire which had been deliberately ignited. A farmer reported seeing people setting light to the crops.

"The blaze involved a 38-acre field of standing corn, of which 75 per cent was destroyed. Crews spent some time

dampening down at the scene."

Smoke from the fire in Fishley Lane could be seen from miles around.

Members of the Bloxwich crew tweeted a picture from the scene under the hashtag #arsonisacrim

● Firefighters tackled a large grass fire in Rugeley. Crews from Rugeley, Cannock, Lichfield and Chase Terrace were sent to the scene on the Peartree estate at 2pm on Saturday. The fire involved 300 square metres of gorse land.

A spokesman for Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service said: "At one point we had four main jets and one hose reel at the scene."

● Firefighters are warning people about the dangers of deliberately starting a fire in open areas following a blaze at a Black Country nature reserve.

Three crews from Dudley and Haden Cross fire stations were called to Saltwells Nature Reserve on Friday night to tackle a bush fire.

Picture: West Midlands Fire Service



Looking ahead – museum staff member Diane Sanders as 'Eleanea' with Ember the dragon

Circus antics at family fun day

MORE than 800 people are expected to visit the Museum of Cannock Chase on Sunday for its annual summer family day.

The circus-themed event between midday and 4pm will see members of staff dressed up in costumes such as clowns, ringmasters, lion tamers and fortune tellers.

It marks the 250th anniversary of the circus in Britain.

Visitor services officer Rachel Gentle said: "These are great community events where families can get together and spend time together. It's to celebrate summer."

Attractions include a stilt-walker, circus-themed marionettes, traditional Punch & Judy shows, and arts and crafts.

Admission is free, but visitors are advised to use public transport or park in the town and walk there due to the possibility of the car park filling up quickly.

NEWS IN BRIEF

999 services in online surgery

STAFFORDSHIRE Police and the county's fire service are holding an online surgery today (Thursday) to ask questions and raise any concerns.

Specifically aimed at residents of Cannock and Rugeley, it provides an opportunity to chat directly with neighbourhood officers and representatives from Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Service plus the Community Safety Partnership team.

The chat goes live at 7pm and questions can be submitted on Twitter @cannockpolice or @staffspolice or on Facebook to Staffordshire Police. To take part, visit www.staffordshire.police.uk/article/2748/Cannock-Chase

Tolkien exhibition now at Hednesford

AN exhibition celebrating the author of The Lord of the Rings and his links with Staffordshire is now at Hednesford Library until September 1.

This insight into the early years of JRR Tolkien, one of the world's best-loved writers, and his time spent in the county, has already been seen by more than 250,000 visitors since it launched in March 2016.

The exhibition is available during normal library opening times. For details visit www.staffordshiregreatwar.com or the Staffordshire Libraries webpages at www.staffordshire.gov.uk

Entries invited for trust's cycle event

STAFFORDSHIRE Wildlife Trust is inviting cyclists of all abilities to join its first Ride the Roaches sportive.

The event takes place on Sunday, September 2, starting at the trust's Wolsley HQ, near Rugeley, with all abilities being catered for. There are three routes on offer – a Mammoth 90-mile route, a Midi 60-mile route and a Mini 20-mile route.

The courses, which take in some of the county's beautiful scenery, have been designed by professionals at Ride Ventures. A medal will be presented to every rider who finishes.

Warning on 'threats to families' emails

STAFFORDSHIRE Police are warning computer users not to be fooled by cyber criminals who send threatening emails in an attempt to trick them into transferring cash.

The fraudster, who has a Brazilian email address, emails the victims and threatens them and their family unless they hand over huge sums of money. The warning comes after a person received a demand for £10,000. No money was sent.

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COUNTY NEWS

Car insurance premiums fall

CAR insurance premiums continued to fall in the three months to the end of June.

The latest AA British Insurance Premium 'Shoparound' index saw more than £18 wiped off the average quoted premium.

Over 12 months, premiums have dropped by an average of 10.8 per cent to £648.10 – £78.83 cheaper – from an all-time high of £726.93 at the end of the second quarter last year.

For the Central region, taking in the West Midlands, the quarterly fall for premiums was 3.4 per cent to £659.52. Regionally the largest reduction was in London.

Region fares worst for abuse of staff

NEARLY 60 per cent of consumers in the West Midlands have witnessed some form of abuse towards retail staff in the last three years, new research has found.

Insurer NFU Mutual said the abuse included customers belittling or patronising staff and cursing and shouting. Physical attacks on employees were also witnessed. The 59 per cent in the West Midlands who have witnessed abuse is the highest percentage in the UK. The average is 52 per cent.

Frank Woods, retail specialist at insurer NFU Mutual, said: "No-one deserves to be spoken to rudely or feel threatened at work."

Third show desire to run a business

MORE than a third of people in the West Midlands would like to run their own business, a survey shows.

Informi, who provide expert advice and guidance for Britain's Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), conducted the study to see how entrepreneurial different regions around the UK are.

It found 36 per cent in the West Midlands would like to run their own business, 64 per cent of whom were confident it would be a success.

55 per cent of students rue going to university

MORE than half of Midlands students and graduates regret going to university and say they do not need a degree to do their job, a survey has found.

Barclays Apprenticeships discovered that in the Midlands, 55 per cent of people who left university in the last five years regret their decision and the same percentage – compared with a UK average of 44 – said they did not need a degree to do their current job.

Garden centres for sale in big shake-up

THE future of three garden centres in Staffordshire is uncertain after they were put up for sale for almost £16 million.

Wolsley Bridge Garden Centre at Wolsley Bridge near Rugeley, and Shenstone Garden Centre in Birmingham Road are on the market.

It is hoped that the Wolsley Bridge property will fetch up to £3.8m, while the owner has a guide price of £8.5m

for the Shenstone centre. Gardenlands Garden Centre on Bridgnorth Road, Pattingham, near Wolverhampton, is also up for sale at £3.4m.

Offers for the businesses have been received since May, and business property adviser Christie & Co has been appointed to explore a range of sales options. The sale is part of Wyevalle Garden Centres' plan to sell off 145 sites throughout the UK.

A spokesperson for Wyevalle said: "We have been delighted by the level of interest we have received."

"We have received a significant number of offers for all and parts of the business from national, regional and financial operators as well as local entrepreneurs."

"We will now be considering the offers over the coming weeks."

Terra Firma, owner of the centres,

placed all its 145 stores across the country on the market in the hope of attracting a range of investors.

Christie & Co, which is marketing the mass sale, says the centres could provide a number of alternative use development opportunities, subject to planning permission.

Meanwhile, other garden centres up for sale include sites at Barnett Hill near Cleat, Aldridge and Albrighton.

Seizures of drugs at women's jail soar

DRUG seizures at Drake Hall women's prison have soared, new figures show.

In the 12 months up to March this year, 38 incidents where drugs were found were recorded at the Eccleshall prison – up from nine. Mobile phones were up to 10 from two and SIM cards rose to 29 from one previously.

Elsewhere, at the Featherstone men's prison the number of incidents where drugs were confiscated rose from 70 to 193.

The prison also saw 232 phones found by officers, up from 95 the year before, as well as 177 SIM cards – up from 64.

At HMP Oakwood, also in Featherstone, there were 293 incidents of drugs being confiscated – higher than any prison in the region.

However, this figure was down from 375 the previous year. There were 164 mobiles phones confiscated (down from 255) and SIM cards also went down from 102 to 98.

The figures from the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) show that HMP Birmingham had 242 incidents of drugs being confiscated, up from 191 the previous year. There were also 294 mobiles (up from 180) and 302 SIM cards found – more than double the previous year's 138.

The figures for Featherstone, Birmingham and Drake Hall represent the highest number of incidents where drugs were confiscated in the last 20 years.

An MoJ spokesperson said: "We are training 300 dogs in drugs detection, and investing £7 million in measures such as airport-security style scanners and phone-blocking technology."

Councillors glad as post office is saved

By David Banner

LABOUR councillors in Burntwood say they are breathing a sigh of relief that the future of Sankey's Corner post office appears to be secured, for now at least.

Burntwood Town Councillor Darren Ennis, had expressed an interest in buying the premises but ownership has been transferred along with the post office facility.

Others also joined the campaign to keep the post office in place.

Councillor Diane Evans, leader of the Labour group on Burntwood Town Council, pursued an application to designate the post office as an Asset of Community Value, and Chasetown ward Councillor Sharon Banevicius, who represents Chasetown on Lichfield District Council, 'called in' for discussion an application to change the premises to a dental surgery which has now been withdrawn.

Achieved

Councillor Evans said: "As the post office is so important to the local community, the Labour councillors felt it necessary to ask the district council to nominate it so that it cannot be sold for any other purpose."

"This was successfully achieved so the Asset of Community Value remains in place for up to five years and even then, if owners decide to sell, the council must be notified and there will be the opportunity to purchase it as a post office."

Councillor Banevicius said: "People have been very concerned about the possible loss of the post office at Sankey's Corner, especially as we have lost our banks, so this is good news for our town."

"I think the message to local people is that we must use the post office so that it remains viable for the future."

Readers old and new at library launch



Dora Cooper, aged 103, with Ellie Lovell, three weeks old, and Ellie's mother Natalie outside the library

THE oldest resident in Brereton has met one of the youngest to mark the official launch of its new community library.

Dora Cooper, 103, met with Ellie Lovell, who is three weeks old, outside the library with Ellie's mother Natalie. The library has been taken over by Rugeley Rotary Club, which made a successful bid to Staffordshire County Council, and has been renamed the Rotary Community Library Brereton.

John Wilson, president of Rugeley Rotary Club and project leader of the library, said: "In April, Staffordshire County Council converted 20 of their libraries to

community libraries and they needed community organisations to manage each library, and the Rugeley Rotary Club put in a bid to run this one in Brereton.

"We're extremely happy because that's what Rotary is all about. Rotary is a service organisation that helps communities locally."

"We have a fantastic team of 26 local volunteers form the local community who are very enthusiastic about providing the local community with this valuable asset."

"We took over in April but this was the official launch. It's very popular for the young and the old, we just want the other generations to use it a bit more."

Murder probe: No action on suspects

POLICE investigating the murder of a pensioner have said four men arrested in connection with his death will face no further action.

However, a 28-year-old man and a 17-year-old teenager arrested on suspicion of murdering 87-year-old Arthur Gumbley are still under investigation. Mr Gumbley died after a violent robbery at his home in Little Aston in November.

The four men discounted from the investigation are 42, 34, 33 and 29.

Earlier this year an appeal to catch the killers was made on television.

Detectives called on people with information about the death to 'do the right thing'. Footage was shown on Crimewatch Roadshow of Arthur, known as Bob, recalling the horror in hospital shortly before he died.

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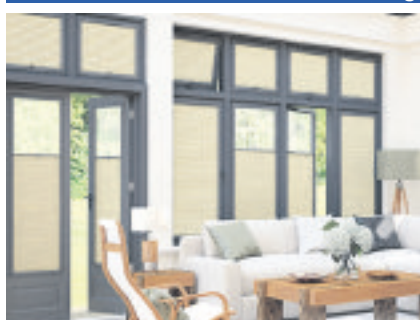
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Action plea over failed £50m shops site scheme

A COUNCIL has been urged to 'step up a notch' to find a solution following a failed £50 million shopping development.

The Friarsgate project in Lichfield was scrapped after more than a decade of planning – leaving tax payers with a £7m bill for work that had already been carried out.

The decision not to progress, which was announced last month, came after developers U&I failed to source private funding for the scheme and council bosses opted not to stump up the money to fill the void.

Lichfield's Tory MP Michael Fabricant said that although the city council could not be held responsible for the failed project, it was down to council bosses to find an immediate solution. "It will be the council to blame if it now doesn't step up a notch to initiate immediate remedial works and embark on a realistic plan for the future," he said.

Mr Fabricant called for the grey hoardings surrounding the old garage site on the corner of St John Street and Birmingham Road to be removed. "They are an unwelcome eyesore," he said.

As part of the project, the Tempest Ford site in St John Street was levelled and houses in Frog Lane were demolished, but the search for a development partner to bankroll Friarsgate was to prove fruitless.

Awards presented to county's carers

YOUNG people, family carers, community groups and organisations from throughout Staffordshire have been recognised at the county's Dignity in Care Awards.

More than 200 guests were joined by family members and work colleagues for the annual celebration at Newcastle College of Performing Arts.

The Staffordshire County Council awards recognise care services and individuals who ensure people in care are treated with dignity and respect.

The awards were presented by the county council's deputy leader Councillor Alan White and the chair of the National Dignity Council, Jan Burns. "Once again, it was great to see such a mix of carers and roles," Councillor White added.

Peak District walk

CHASE Ramblers are going on a nine-mile strenuous walk in the Peak District this Sunday, meeting at Hednesford railway station car park for a 9am prompt departure. Call 01922 419324. New walkers are welcome.

Operator enjoys record half year profit

The West Midlands' biggest bus operator has accelerated to record half-year profits as it continues to expand overseas.

Birmingham-based National Express said profits have been boosted to £80 million by strong growth in North America during the school bus contract bidding season, and also with the growth of its Spanish bus and coach business Alsa.

During the six months to the end of June the group installed the largest contactless payment system on buses outside of London, helping to drive a 1.3 per cent growth in passenger numbers in the West Midlands. National Express is the dominant bus operator in the West Midlands region, employing more than 5,500 people and operating 1,500 vehicles that handle nearly eight in every 10 public transport journeys in the West Midlands.

Its buses in the region carry around one million people a day and it is due to launch an on-demand bus service in the region. It has also expanded into running workforce shuttle buses for companies.

The transport group has continued to expand abroad, running buses in Switzerland and Morocco as well as in the United States and Spain, and also operates train services in Germany.

Group chief executive Dean Finch said: "National Express has had another strong start to the year, delivering its best ever half-year statutory profit, up 24 per cent year-on-year. Our increasingly diversified portfolio has again delivered strong results and

has entered a new phase of expansion into complementary growth markets.

"All of our divisions have grown revenue, profit and commercial passengers through a relentless focus on good customer service and technology investment. We also continue to make disciplined acquisitions that help grow our portfolio strategically.

"We have made seven acquisitions so far this year and have entered new fast-growing markets, providing avenues for interesting future expansion.

"Our pipeline of new opportunities remains strong and growing. This combination of growth in our core business and the number of exciting new opportunities allows us to again increase the interim dividend by 10 per cent."

1,500 bus routes are scrapped in cutbacks

THE West Midlands has lost more than 1,500 bus routes over five years, new figures show.

According to the Traffic Commissioner's annual report, the region saw 320 routes scrapped last year, meaning 1,527 local routes have gone since 2012-13.

The move has caused misery for pensioners and people living in rural areas, and appears to fly in the face of a region-wide push to encourage more people to use public transport.

Factors including rising car use and cuts to public spending are blamed for the significant drop in routes, which has been branded 'hugely concerning' by campaigners.

Among the routes to go recently was the 154, which operated between Wolverhampton and Hednesford through the i54 business park but was ditched by National Express earlier this year after funding was pulled. And bus operator Arriva cut all Sunday services in Cannock and Stafford in April after funding was axed by Staffordshire County Council.

Lost

The authority said some journeys were costing tax payers £10 a time, which was 'simply not sustainable'.

The figures show that 346 routes went in 2012-13, with another 320 going the following year and 316 scrapped in 2014-15. In 2015-16, the region lost a total of 225 bus routes.

Kevin Chapman, a spokesman for the Campaign for Better Transport in the West Midlands, said the vast majority of the lost routes involve buses that serve rural communities.

"When the local bus service goes, this often results in people in these areas becoming more isolated," he said. "We are faced with a nasty cocktail of reduced funding for councils and operators cutting routes, while in the middle of it all we have vulnerable people who may rely on the bus to get out and about."

Martin Tett, the Local Government Association's transport spokesman, said the decrease in routes was 'hugely concerning'.

"Buses provide a vital service for our communities and a lifeline for our most vulnerable residents," he added.

Pupils' shoe-per contribution



Walking without shoes at Landywood Primary School, from left, pupils Luke Roberts, aged eight, Christina Gavriel, Lewis Webb, Isabella Maulin and Shona Watson, all aged 10

CHILDREN in Great Wyrley kicked off their shoes in delight and walked barefoot to celebrate their contribution to a charity.

Pupils at Landywood Primary School left their shoes on their desks after lessons, so they could be sent to disadvantaged children in 35 different countries.

It was part of the Toe to Toe Project, where children's shoes

are sent to the charity Sal's Shoes and then shipped off to other youngsters.

Andrew Clewer, headteacher at Landywood, said: "We believe by participating in this project our pupils have learned a powerful message about the ethos of this programme. When we explained to the children where their shoes were going they were initially surprised to know that shoes they would no longer be wearing after the summer holiday were going to be worn by children in less fortunate places in the world."

Last year, more than 750,000 pairs of shoes were distributed by the charity, and Mr Clewer said the whole school was pleased to be able to support such a worthy cause.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Police find drugs and cash in raid

A MAN and woman were arrested after drugs and £3,500 in cash were discovered during a police raid at a property in Chads Moor.

Officers from the local neighbourhood action team and the force's Tactical Support Team took part in the operation on Thursday morning.

A police spokesman said: "A warrant was executed at an address in the Chads Moor area. Approximately 3kg of Class B drugs were recovered, along with approximately £3,500 in cash.

"A 23-year-old man and 43-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of possessing Class B with intent to supply. Both remain in custody."

Charity offers 'VIP' discounts

A CHARITY is welcoming those on low incomes to join a VIP club and take advantage of its discounts.

Cycle-R in Cannock has announced that VIP members will receive 25 per cent discount on any products and services from the charity.

Anyone on low income claiming benefits such as JSA, Universal Tax Credit, Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits or Housing Benefit can apply to become a member. Anyone who would like to join can contact the trustees by calling 01543 523606 or emailing info@cycle-r.org.uk

Community cafe is open for business

A NEW community café has opened its doors in Heath Hayes.

The Cherished Community Café is run by Ruth Howell and Jean Dodds from the Community Life Church at Hayes Green Community Centre. They have been supported by Heath Hayes & Wimblebury Parish Council, which manages the building.

County councillors Phil Hewitt and Bryan Jones have donated £250 each from their Community Fund, which is designed to help groups and initiatives. The café is open every Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 9am to 3pm.

Weekend will focus on Chase military history

FAMILIES are being invited to explore Cannock Chase's past at the annual Military History Weekend on August 18 and 19.

The free event, organised by Staffordshire County Council's rangers service will include displays and re-enactments of military life from the Anglo-Saxon period through to the present day. To find out more visit www.cannockchasehistory.org.uk

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



What a lot of fuss over university billboard

LAST week, somebody who styled herself as "Dr Helen Dexter of Leicester University" posted an advertisement for Wolverhampton University on social media, with the comment "This image is so offensive I am amazed anyone thought it was appropriate. Please withdraw it immediately."

I looked at it, and then looked at it again. I could not see anything remotely offensive. Admittedly, I couldn't understand what it was about either, just a young girl, presumably a student, talking to a group of children, presumably in Africa. With the slogan "If you want to explore new worlds, start here."

It is a hopeless advert, but then again, roadside billboards seldom give confidence in an academic institution. When was the last time you saw one for Oxford or Cambridge?

But while it seems a rather silly way to promote its courses, I fail to see how anybody could possibly be offended. Thankfully, Dr Helen's fellow travellers were happy to explain.

Now I'm always sceptical about non-medics who preface their name with the title "Dr", particularly on social media. It seems a bit chippy, a bit like listing your O-level grades after your name. But when it comes to self-regard, the people who took offence seem to be on another planet.

"Prof Dr Lisa Ann Richey" explained it was all about "voluntourism" and "neo-colonialism", as well as "visual signage". Now when was the last time anybody who used the word 'signage' had a valid point to make?

Then there was Nicole Andrews, a 33-year-old health and social care lecturer at Newman University in Birmingham. She said: "There's strands of colonialism, patriotism, racism, gender issues." So patriotism is a bad thing now, as well?

Also worth an honourable mention is Dave Hitchcock, a self-styled "historian" who says the "echoes of philanthropic-capitalism are Not Good". Philanthropic-capitalism. Where do they get these words from? I think, in plain English, what they are trying to say is that a lot of young people who go on these "aid projects" are really after a cheap holiday and a pat on the back, which is actually a valid point.

I have long grown weary of people raising thousands of pounds in sponsorship not to give to charities working in the Third World, but simply to pay for their very expensive trip. Quite what this has to do with colonialism, gender issues or capitalism, though, I'm not sure. Still, on the positive side, at least it's funny seeing one bunch of snowflakes complaining about another bunch of snowflakes.

Remember the time when 'Made in Britain' reigned



Sondos Alqattan – and the problem of employing Filipina maids



Humid? I am reminded of the throwaway line by neighbour Nick (Owen Brenman)



Peter Benchley's definition in his novel, Jaws – a shark is a swimming appetite

Glow of pride that can cost a fortune

TODAY I metaphorically link arms with Comrade Jez on the long march to the sunlit uplands of Brexit. Jeremy Corbyn is a long-standing enemy of the EU for exactly the same reason as his political enemies Boris Johnson and Jacob Rees-Mogg. They do not believe Britain can be properly governed, or reach its full potential, as a one-28th part shareholder in a superstate which is strangled by red tape and ruled by people who think Luxembourg is a real country. This week Mr Corbyn urged the nation to seize one of the first advantages of Brexit – the weak pound – to kick-start our manufacturing industry. Why buy stuff from China when we can make it here?

WELL, it sounds perfect. Unless you are old enough to remember the time when almost every item you bought was marked "Made in Britain" which may have given us a brief glow of pride but cost us a fortune.

IN the drought of 1976, for example, being young and foolish, we followed the Government's advice to soak the garden using water from the washing machine. What no-one told us was that the appliance's water pump depended on a certain level of water pressure. Attaching the machine to a garden hose increased the pressure, demolished the pump and wrecked the "Made in Britain" washing machine. The replacement, also made in Britain, cost us £130 or to put it another way, two weeks' wages. Consumers have grown accustomed to consumer goods being made in China and sold here for a fraction of what, in real terms, they used to cost. So own up, citizens. How much are you prepared to pay to subsidise Comrade Jez's Number One All-British Washing Machine Factory?

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THIS week saw the introduction of a pair of beavers to a stream in the Forest of Dean. Or as it will shortly be known, the Lake of Dean.

OUR changing language. Full marks in the creative-English stakes to the police officer on Radio 4 who described a rise in acid attacks from 700 a year to 800 per year as "a de-escalation." What she meant was that the rate of increase was slowing down. It's a bit like inflation which makes prices go up, even when it's falling.

I PRESS the computer key and TV Licensing replies: "Thank you. Your TV licence application was successful." Depends how you define successful. I am poorer by £150.50 yet I seem to watch less BBC than ever before. This week I have been mostly watching Netflix.

SPELLCHECK. Netflix = Reflux.

IN the debate over whether the insult "gamon" is racist, a reader insists the term has "zero racist comment." Which is exactly what they used to say about golliwogs, the N-word and the Black and White Minstrels. Don't you just hate being on the wrong side of history?

THE BBC's religious slot Thought for the Day, is reserved for approved religions, despite lobbying by atheists, humanists, pagans and druids. One item this week was a common-sense discourse on the costs of funerals by a Church

of England vicar. Unless I dozed off, there was not a religious line in it. The piece could have been delivered just as well by an agnostic, rain-dancer or Jedi knight. The idea that only God-botherers have opinions worth listening to is a form of discrimination. Unworthy, Auntie.

BIG questions of our age. "How can you have a servant at home who keeps their own passport with them? What's worse is they have one day off every week." Kuwaiti social-media star Sondos Alqattan on the problem of employing Filipina maids. Servants, eh? Who'd have 'em?

SHARKS are flocking (do sharks flock?) to Cornwall. As sea temperatures rise it is not a question of whether someone will be devoured by a British shark, but when. Yet the official line seems to be that sharks are magnificent, intelligent creatures that we should adore and not fear. I prefer Peter Benchley's definition in his great novel, Jaws. A shark is a swimming appetite.

WHILE we're on it, who decided in all the latest nature programmes, that killer whales should suddenly be rebranded as Orcas? They have not gone all huggy-feely, vegan and fluffy overnight and I suspect they not only think of themselves as killers but are proud to be introduced as such. Yeah, technically I'm an Orca but just call me Killer, right?

THE more humid it gets, the more I am reminded of that silly, throwaway and yet unforgettable line from One Foot in the Grave (BBC) when Victor Meldrew's chatty neighbour Nick (Owen Brenman) flips the fence panel aside and asks: "Is it moist or is it me?"

TALKING POINT

Beautiful game? It's just one big cliché

The football season is just a couple of days away but don't expect the main action to be taking place on the pitch.

Far from it, in fact. Away from the glare of the TV cameras and plodding punditry is where the modern game is played out these days.

Typically topical and candidly controversial, Talking Point offers the following top 10 highlights of 2018-19:

1 Many an eyebrow will be raised in the first month of the season when at least half a dozen clubs will lose patience with their coaches. Yes, it's time to jump aboard the Managerial Merry-go-Round.

2 Social media will be 'buzzing' after a player/manager/commentator oversteps the mark and posts something to cause 'outrage' and 'disgust'. It happens all the time so why do we still get so uptight?

3 A newborn child will be landed with the names of all the players at the club his father (and it's usually down to the dad) supports. Time to call in the NSPCC?

4 Back in social media land, there will be regular updates on an 'ardent' supporter who has booked a flight from the other side of the world, only to be thwarted in getting to their 'match of a lifetime' by a strike by air traffic controllers.

5 A 'warts and all' autobiography will 'lift the lid' on the excesses and corruption behind the shiny facade of the beautiful game. Note the timing of publication... just in time for the Christmas market.

6 Several clubs will brag about having a 'celebrity supporter' who has crawled out of the woodwork having watched a few World Cup games on the telly.

7 At some stage in the season, a family will be pictured wearing the team colours of two rival sides who are playing each other that week. Headline? "Family loyalties put aside until final whistle".

8 A survey, probably by an estate agents, will show how house prices are affected by the proximity to a football ground, omitting the problem of trudging home having parked half a mile away when the streets are clogged up with supporters' cars.

9 A cliché will spring up that will get everyone gnashing their teeth by the end of the season. My money's on "They're in a love train", as coined by Glenn Hoddle when England players stood in a queue waiting for a corner to be taken.

10 'Council busybodies' will 'stick their nose in' when someone paints the outside of their house in their team colours.

There it is, our national sport in all its glory. If you're a football fan, don't get too irate. If you're not, I'm afraid you'll just have to grin and bear it. Here we go, here we go, here we go!

STEVE PARLETT

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Hospital Friends celebrate 60 years



League of Friends volunteers gather at Mim's Mom's Coffee bar for the group's 60th anniversary

A VETERAN fundraiser was remembered as the Stafford and Cannock League of Hospital Friends marked their 60th anniversary.

Members celebrated with an afternoon tea at Mim's Mom's Coffee Bar in High Green, Cannock, and event that also marked the 70th anniversary of the NHS.

Local lay preacher Jim Bullock gave a talk at the gathering, speaking about his childhood and volunteering, and made special mention of Ethel Powell, who gave 33 years to the Cannock League of Friends, and who died in Febru-

ary aged 97. She had been honoured with an MBE for her tireless work in raising funds to improve medical care for patients across Cannock Chase.

Martin Thornley, chief executive of the Friends, said: "We would like to thank all of our volunteers, past and present. They are an amazing team and have provided a great service to hospital visitors and staff."

The group are always looking for volunteers to join them. Anyone interested can contact volunteer co-ordinator Liz Hill at elizabeth.hill@sclohf.co.uk or call 01785 413234.

75,000 can go superfast

SOME 75,000 households and businesses in Staffordshire now have the use of superfast broadband.

The county council's £27 million Superfast Staffordshire project has seen the number of premises double in the past two years.

It is using a mixture of 'fibre to the cabinet' and 'fibre to the premises' technology to deliver superfast broad-

band. The latest communities to benefit include Morston Court in Norton Canes; Blithbury; Lower Penn; and Patshull Park.

Councillor Mark Winnington, Staffordshire County Council's economic growth leader, said: "In just four years we have seen a huge transformation in Staffordshire by ensuring that tens of thousands of properties have the ability to connect to superfast broadband - making a big difference to people's

day to day living. The Superfast Staffordshire programme is a top priority to the county council as it supports independent living, opens up opportunities and boosts economic growth and prosperity.

"Together with commercial roll-out it has enabled 95 per cent of the county to have connectivity and our programme alone means an additional 75,000 Staffordshire properties now have access to superfast broadband."

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Our smart meter's not much use

FOLLOWING various reports on television, I wish to comment on smart meters.

My husband and I are septuagenarians and just about coping with modern technology. We are also the owners of a smart meter.

It was fitted very easily by a well trained contractor. We were handed a leaflet and told that all the information we would require was in the leaflet.

We did not find the leaflet very enlightening and we fail to understand how the meter helps us.

If we wish to cut our electricity and gas bills, we turn appliances down or off; the so-called smart meter doesn't do this for us.

It's harmless, but not a lot of use to us!

LIZ TOMLINSON
Stafford

Plan would tie us to EU for many years

CANNOCK Chase residents voted overwhelmingly for Brexit. It is obvious now that the Prime Minister has underhandedly tried to keep us tied to the EU with her Chequers Plan.

This plan would see us tied to the EU for many years to come, taking orders from Brussels and still having some of our laws directly enforced by European Courts, and we would still be paying the EU £39 billion. Is this how

we envisaged Brexit would be? Is this what Mrs May meant when she told us 'Brexit means Brexit' and that 'No deal is better than a bad deal'?

The plan was secretly sanctioned by the Prime Minister and written behind the backs of other MPs by civil servant Olly Robbins, an ardent remainer. The consequent uproar over the secret plan resulted in many Cabinet resignations. I recently wrote to our Conserva-

tive MP, Amanda Milling, and was astounded to get her reply that she thought the Prime Minister's Chequers plan was 'A good deal for Britain'.

So, we are a Brexit voting majority area being represented by a remainer MP. We have an MP who should work for us, speak out for us and argue for us and yet she doesn't agree with us.

TONY MOLLOY
Hednesford

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Going back to travel for just the rich

I WAS most interested to read about electric Jaguar cars.

Electric cars currently have a certain amount of value on short trips but the idea that on a brief trip from the Midlands to Cornwall one would have to stop at Gloucester for an hour to recharge the batteries would certainly discourage me from buying one.

In a previous career I have needed to drive from Walsall to Plymouth and back in a day, that would be unlikely with this electric car. Presumably if one wished to ensure the ability to go there and back in a day one would go by train.

It seems to me society is going back to when only the rich can afford to travel.

MR M FAWDREY
Hednesford

It's logical: There is no threat to this country

ACCORDING to Tom Robbins, I am 'unaware' of the behaviour of the EU (A betrayal of the core principles", July 26). Actually, what I am not aware of is any 'disgraceful threats' to the UK from the EU.

And it seems that Mr Robbins is not aware of any either as he fails to provide any examples or back up his accusations with credible evidence. The logical conclusion, therefore, is that no such threats exist.

CLARE SHOLL
Burntwood

Hoping for better result

IT'S nice to see the leader of Cannock Council is pleased to see the start of the out of town shopping complex (July 26). He probably feels the same as the leader of Dudley Council when Merry hill was being built. Let's hope Cannock town centre doesn't end up the same as Dudley.

ROGER ALLEN
Great Wyrley

Weighty train of thought

WITH reference to the front-page story "Chase Line chaos as bird hits train" (Chronicle, July 19), what sort of bird hit what sort of pipe to stop an 80-ton train? I would love to know! Probably a blue tit with an attitude!

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Open garden event helps with crops

Cannock Soroptimists

CANNOCK Soroptimists supported the Meru Women's Garden Project by holding an open garden weekend.

Around 40 people went along to each of the events, hosted by June Bould, president of SI Cannock, and Soroptimist Maggie Shore.

Everyone admired their beautiful gardens while enjoying tea, cakes, boules and croquet.

The project is supported by all clubs in the Federation of Great Britain and Ireland and is in its third and final year.

In partnership with Child.org women of Meru County, Kenya, will be educated, empowered and enabled to create their own employment through growing and selling their crops or to take on training and mentoring roles within their communities.

Additionally, girls and boys will receive training opportunities to promote staying in school, health education and the alternative rite of passage to FGM.

At the end of the open garden event president June was delighted to tell everyone that they had raised £500 for the project.

Soroptimists will be in Cannock town centre on Friday September 28 to promote some of their local projects such as provision of sanitary items and toiletries to those in need and will also be available to talk to any woman interested in joining them in their work.

Successful year ends in a double handover



Changing places – Cliff Shore, left, Megan Griffiths and David Gardiner

THE Rotary Club of Cannock has a new president for the forthcoming Rotary year.

The changeover event saw the current incumbent Cliff Shore pass on the role to David Gardiner. This year was a double handover as the presidency of The Chase Interact club also changed hands with the founding member and president Daniel Nikolov hand over the chain of office to incoming president Megan Griffiths.

There were more than 70 people at the event at the Barns Hotel, including representatives from other local Rotary clubs, plus members of Chase Interact Club.

Cliff thanked the club members for their support and gave details of a very successful

Rotary Club of Cannock

ful year for the club, which this year raised over £10,000. The money is being used to support local and international charities and good causes. There was also a special presentation of a Paul Harris Fellowship to immediate past president Cliff Shore for his outstanding contribution to Rotary.

The Cannock club has increased its membership this year, with the recent transfer of six members from the Rotary Club of Penkridge and the induction of a new member, Gary Manifold.

'Stars' at annual luncheon

CANNOCK Chase Ladies' Probus Club held their annual luncheon at Brocton Hall Golf Club on June 28.

Madam chairman Mrs Sheila Yard introduced her guests on the top table from the other four Probus clubs in Cannock and Hednesford.

Cannock Chase Ladies' Probus

The Grace was said by Gill Worrall-Arnold, vice-chairman, after which the 80 guests enjoyed a splendid meal together.

Entertainment for the afternoon was provided by David St John, who took the entire gathering down Memory Lane singing songs and impersonating stars from the 60s, 70s and 80s.

Mrs Pat Preece gave the vote of thanks.

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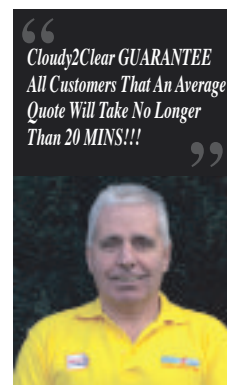
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Graduates set for top jobs



Apprentice dental nurses from PTP Training, Louise Gnosill from Walsall, Charis Kitson from South Staffs and Olivia Painter from Cannock

MORE than 130 apprentices from across Staffordshire took centre stage to celebrate their graduation.

Apprentices and their families were joined at Staffordshire County Showground in Stafford by employers and training providers after completing their training.

Now in its fourth year, the ceremony acknowledges the achievements of higher and advanced

apprentices, helping promote apprenticeships on an equal footing as university as a route to success.

David Frost, chairman of the Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Local Enterprise Partnership, said: "Encouraging people to take up apprenticeships is a key part of our strategy to bring more and better jobs, economic growth and prosperity to our region."

OVERCROWDING on commuter trains in and out of Birmingham is increasing, the latest Department for Transport figures show.

Last autumn, trains into the city were 2.4 per cent above capacity on average at peak periods on weekday mornings – up 1.1 per cent on 2016. For afternoon and evening peaks, they were up 0.6 per cent at 1.5 per cent.

The percentage of passengers unable to find a seat at the morning peak was 15 per cent – up 0.9 per cent – and for afternoon/evening 12 per cent – up one per cent.

Since 2010 the number of standing passengers on trains into Birmingham in the morning peak has risen by six per cent.

In all, 45 per cent of services had standing passengers last autumn – up 16 per cent over the seven years.

Typical

The West Midlands has seen the fastest growth in rail usage in the country over the last decade with total annual journeys up 129 per cent to 91 million.

Between 2002 and 2016 the percentage of commuters using rail as their usual method of travel in the region increased from two to three per cent. The number of passengers travelling in and out of Birmingham on a typical weekday averaged 252,500 last autumn – up 3.3 per cent on the year. Morning peak seats into Birmingham are up by 4,100 since 2010 but peak demand has risen by 10,600.

The Department for Transport report says electrification of lines to Rugeley and Bromsgrove will allow more frequent trains, and part of the new West Midlands rail franchise will see new trains introduced that will increase capacity from 2020.

Transport Secretary Chris Grayling said the network was overcrowded but the Government is investing more than at any time since the steam age in expanding capacity.

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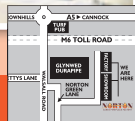
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Celebrities in town for road trip show



Comedian Russell Kane and TV presenter AJ Odudu have been on the hunt for antiques in Penkridge. They were at Cuttlesstones Auctioneers and Valuers in Pinfold Lane to film for the Celebrities Antiques Road Trip show. Antiques experts Philip Serrell and Margie Cooper gave them expert advice for the show, which will be broadcast on the BBC later this year

£70k parking fines in one street

DRIVERS have paid out almost **£70,000** in fines over the past three years in one street in Walsall town centre.

More motorists have been caught parking illegally in Bridge Street than any other road in the borough, paying out £69,884 since 2015. A similar amount was paid by drivers falling foul of traffic wardens in High Street.

A total of £578,349 worth of fines

was been paid to Walsall Council last year. On the top 10 roads alone, drivers paid £138,521 in 2015-16, which rose the following year to £154,465 and again last year to £163,517.

The places where drivers are most likely to be caught were revealed following a Freedom of Information request by the Chronicle's sister paper the Express & Star.

Fines from parking offences in Bridge Street have risen over each

of the last three years, peaking at £27,680 in 2017-18. Double-yellow lines run up the length of the street, while there are some parking bays for disabled drivers and taxis.

The next most costly was High Street - £69,168 since 2015-16. Lower Hall Lane, Fraser Street and Lichfield Street were also hotspots, with Station Street, Bradford Street, Goodall Street, Hatherton Street and Tower Street completing the top 10.

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TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	ANNUAL MILEAGE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£17,067	£5,955	5,000*	48 MONTHS	3.83%	3.9%

Representative Finance Example

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE	CASH PRICE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FEES
£259**	£259	£1,700*	£21,282	£19,323	NIL
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	ANNUAL MILEAGE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£23,496	£9,364	5,000*	48 MONTHS	3.83%	3.9%

Representative Finance Example

CUSTOMER DEPOSIT	47 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	FINANCE DEPOSIT ALLOWANCE	CASH PRICE	AMOUNT OF CREDIT	FEES
£159**	£159	£2,100*	£12,682	£10,423	NIL
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	OPTIONAL FINAL PAYMENT	ANNUAL MILEAGE	DURATION OF AGREEMENT	FIXED RATE OF INTEREST	REPRESENTATIVE APR (FIXED)
£13,803	£4,071	5,000*	48 MONTHS	3.83%	3.9%

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District suffers fall in its employment rate

Award win is easy as APC



Bill Russell collects APC Overnight's award from Francis Richardson, deputy chief executive of RoSPA

CANNOCK-BASED APC Overnight has achieved a Bronze RoSPA Health and Safety Award.

It is the second time that the delivery network has been recognised by RoSPA, having also achieved the bronze award in 2017.

Collecting the award on behalf of APC Overnight were health, safety and environment manager Bill Russell, assistant health, safety and

environment manager Marc Oliver, and day operations manager Katie Taylor.

Jonathan Smith, chief executive of APC Overnight, said: "We are very proud to have once again achieved a bronze RoSPA award, recognising the safety of our workplace and our people."

"It is credit to the collective effort and determination of our staff."

THE Cannock Chase district has seen a fall in the number of people employed, latest quarterly figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show.

There were rises almost everywhere else in the West Midlands region but in Cannock Chase there was a 0.8 per cent fall to 79.5 per cent of the working-age population.

Stafford saw a six per cent rise in the number of people in work, to 84.5 per cent. It was also good news for South Staffordshire – up 0.5 per cent to 78.4 per cent – and Lichfield, which was up 0.4 per cent to 76.9 per cent.

Throughout the UK, record numbers of people are in work, according to the ONS figures, with a 75.7 per cent employment rate marking a rise of 0.8 per cent on the same time last year.

Total

In the Black Country though, Wolverhampton bucked both the national and regional trends.

The number of people with jobs in the city fell 0.4 per cent between April 2017 and March 2018, to 65 per cent.

The other three Black Country boroughs all saw increases in the number of people in work.

In Sandwell the figure rose by 2.7 per cent, although the total employment rate of 64.2 per cent was still below that of Wolverhampton. In Walsall it went up 2.8 per cent to 70.6 per cent, and in Dudley it went up 1.9 per cent to 70.3 per cent.

As with Cannock and Wolverhampton, Birmingham also saw a fall, with those in work dropping 0.1 per cent to 64.4 per cent.

The working-age population is grouped into three categories by the ONS – employed, unemployed or economically inactive, the third category including people who are not looking for a job.

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14 Ride to uphold city tradition

THE CHRONICLE Thursday, August 2, 2018

HORSE riders are being invited to saddle up for the annual Sheriff's Ride in Lichfield on September 8.

The Sheriff's Ride is a unique tradition dating from Queen Mary's Charter of 1553 in which Lichfield was separated from Staffordshire and made a 'city and county' with a right to appoint its own Sheriff.

The charter commanded the Sheriff to make a complete perambulation of the city to inspect the boundary each September – a tradition which has been upheld to this day.

Although steeped in history, the event, supported by Cannock Chase Trekking Centre in Penkridge, combines the best of English tradition with a fun ride.

For an application form call Lucy Clarke at Lichfield City Council on 01543 309852 or email lucy.clarke@lichfield.gov.uk



Last year's Sheriff's Ride – the tradition dates from 1553

50 years of collecting to go under hammer

A HUGE collection of model aircraft kits painstakingly amassed by an enthusiast over 50 years is coming up for auction..

The collection of 2,000-plus unmade kits make up 65 lots in the toy sale on August 13.

Richard Winterton Auctioneers in Lichfield is marketing the sale of the lot, which has been amassed over five decades by a Birmingham collector.

"It's the largest collection we've ever seen," said Jon Price, toys and railwayana valuer at the Lichfield Auction Centre.

"We've purposely put no estimate on it – it is the life's collection of an



Part of the huge collection

enthusiast who devoted at least five decades to it. It arrived here in several van loads and I was staggered when I saw it – it's the biggest single such collection we've seen by a long way."

The collection ranges in date from the 1950s to the 2000s and there are between 60 and 100 kits in each lot.

Brands include Airfix, Matchbox, Novo and Italeri.

Other items coming up in the sale include a big collection of Meccano, Dinky toys, Western Models, Mamod steam models including a fire engine and a remote control helicopter almost two metres in length.

Richard Winterton's Toy Sale at The Lichfield Auction Centre, in Wood End Lane, Fradley Park, starts at midday on August 13. Viewing is from 9.30am to midday on Saturday, August 11, and on the day of sale from 8.30am.

Jon Price carries out free valuations of toys, dolls and railwayana on Tuesdays from 9.30am to 4pm.

Plumbers must pay back £77k

TWO plumbers jailed for fraud have been ordered to pay back a total of £77,000 to their victims.

Peter Hawkett, aged 57, of Vardon Way, Kings Norton, and Patrick Thawe, 47, of Little Park, Quinton, both Birmingham, and others were jailed in August 2016 after charging mostly elderly residents in Staffordshire hundreds of pounds for simple jobs.

Following the sentence, Staffordshire County Council trading standards set about recovering the money and obtaining further compensation. Last week, amounts of £55,000 and £22,000 were ordered to be paid. The pair now have three months to pay or face another year in prison.

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Saturday 11th	Shrewbury Flower Show	£42.50
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Friday 17th	Severn Valley Railway	£33.00
Saturday 18th	Southport	£22.00
Saturday 18th	Southport Flower Show (Including entrance ticket)	£42.00
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Sunday 19th	Southport Flower Show (Including entrance ticket)	£42.00
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Fundraising runner in a double tribute



Lichfield 10k runner Heath Rhodes with Pat Ainge, holding a photograph of her late husband Mervyn

A LICHFIELD 10k runner has dedicated his efforts to the memory of his mother and a close family friend.

Heath Rhodes is one of a six-strong team raising money for Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust, for which Mervyn Ainge was at one time membership secretary. Mervyn's widow Pat said: "Our relationship with Heath was initially through his mother Vicki Phillips, who I was friends with for more than 25 years, right up to her passing in June 2010. My friendship with Heath and his sister Helen has continued ever since."

"Heath is taking part in the Lichfield 10K run for Lichfield & Hatherton Canals Restoration Trust in memory of my husband Mervyn, who passed away in July 2014, but also for his mother Vicki as they both lost their hard-fought battle with cancer." To sponsor Heath, go to www.justgiving.com/fundraising/heathrhodes

The six runners are competing in the Lichfield 10k on September 9 to raise money for the £1m canal tunnel planned to go under the Cross City railway line.

Hundreds oppose tree felling plan at care home

MORE than 1,000 people have backed a campaign against the felling of trees to make way for a new nursing home.

Proposals to flatten the Sister Dora Care Home at Milford Common and rebuild a replacement facility were given the go-ahead in June. Campaigners say more than 25 trees are set to be removed.

Now, an online petition and Facebook campaign group has been launched in an attempt to save the trees.

The campaign, launched by the Save Milford's Trees group, has gathered pace with hundreds of signatures already.

A Save Milford's Trees spokesman said: "The campaign was started after the council approved plans for the new Sister Dora Care Home to be demolished and rebuilt."

"Prior to this, we had been made aware that several tree protection orders were in place, and had been led to believe that the existing trees and grounds would be respectfully preserved."

"As it turns out, this is certainly not the case. It has

been uncertain which trees will be felled, with council members stating that they cannot guarantee that certain trees, such as large oaks, will stay," the spokesman added.

Macc Care submitted plans for the 1920s building off Brocton Road last August.

The existing 47-bed complex shut suddenly in 2016 and 32 residents were moved up to 25 miles away.

An artist's impression of the home has been released. The home will include 71 new beds and create 60 full-time jobs.

No-one at Macc Care was available for comment.

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Simon Penfold gets some last-minute instruction from Finning product manager Tom Moss before being let loose

'Try before you buy' turns out to be a whole load of fun

SIMON PENFOLD test drives
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dealer Finning in Cannock

I AM very delicately trying to pick
up a bucketload of gravel using
what Finning UK would de-
scribed as a reasonably priced
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It may be reasonably priced but I am still
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look a complete wally.

I've been let loose at the controls of a five-
tonne 305 excavator. It's a neat little 42
horsepower machine with a cab that is sur-
prisingly comfortable and full of controls.
Two operate the digger arm and the bucket.
Two sticks can control the digger moving
backwards and forwards, but we'll skip that
today. I've got my hands full as it is.

I slowly swivel the cab to face a pile of
gravel, extend the arm, tilt the bucket
and scoop up some gravel. It's a patheti-
cally small amount but I feel an inordinate
amount of pride. I empty it out and do it
again, getting more this time. I realise I am
having the most enormous fun.

And it is that 'try before you buy' ap-
proach that underlines a new sales strategy
at Cannock Caterpillar equipment dealer
Finning UK. It is taking the tried and
tested techniques of a car dealership and
applying them to the builders and small
companies looking at buying a compact Cat.

Qualify

As Finning's Jeff Scholfield says: "Let
someone loose in one of these machines and
it can virtually sell itself."

A few minutes' instruction from Finning
product manager Tom Moss and even a
complete novice like myself is off and away.
A week's training would qualify most peo-
ple for a CPCS - Contract Plant Competence
Scheme - operator card. And with an in-
creasing shortage in trained operators,
Finning believes its tapping into a growing
market for its smaller machines.

Jeff Schofield had led the team aiming
to transform the way Finning retails its
smaller machines, but credits company
MD Kevin Parkes with driving the idea: "It
started off at the Plantworx trade show last
June, where we had people trying out the
machines, and started thinking 'Why do we
only do this once a year?'. Kevin said we
should be able to do this for people when
they came to Cannock."

The culmination has been the recent
opening of Finning's first Cat Compact
Store at its headquarters on Watling Street
in Cannock. Like a car showroom it has ma-
chinery on display inside and out, as well
as Caterpillar-branded T-shirts, mugs and
workboots. Out the back is an area where
potential customers can try their hand with
a range of equipment. "It's about the three
'A's," Jeff said. "Making our products ac-
cessible, affordable and available. Our
Ready2Go range can literally be bought
with on the day collection."



Simon Penfold, right, with Finning product manager Tom Moss



The test area at the rear of the new Cat Compact Store



Inside the new Cat Compact Store showroom

Prepare for bumps and bruises – GPs

DOCTORS are urging parents to stock up to prepare for bumps and bruises during the summer holidays.

They have advised that every household should have a first aid kit with bandages, plasters and antiseptic wipes along with sunscreen, antihistamine tablets and anti-diarrhoea tablets.

Dr Steve Fawcett, local GP and medical director of North Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups, said: "By planning ahead and taking a few simple steps, parents will be ready."

"Your local pharmacist can provide medicine cabinet essentials and offer expert advice on the best treatments for your children if you need medical attention."

For recommendations on what to stock in a medicine cabinet, visit the NHS Choices website at www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/your-medicine-cabinet

Countryside warning over risks from fire and water

FAMILIES on day trips and outings to the countryside are being urged to stay safe.

With the school holidays under way, Staffordshire County Council is warning people to be alert and says the need to take care is greater than ever.

The authority is applying a no-barbecue request at all of its countryside parks and estates, including Canock Chase, Chasewater, Apedale, Hanchurch Hills, Consall Nature Park and Deep Hayes, near Ched-

leton. Councillor Gill Heath, cabinet member for communities, said: "We have to take care – a moment's carelessness could start a terrible fire, while cooling off by swimming in open water can be terribly dangerous."

Visitors to the countryside are being urged to discard glass carefully because it can magnify sunlight and are being asked not to throw finished cigarettes out of car windows.

A recognised danger at this time of year is swimming in open water such

as lakes, reservoirs and quarries, as inland water temperatures can still be as low as 2C despite the warm air.

That can cause 'cold water shock' which can lead to sudden loss of consciousness, while prolonged periods in cold water can also cause hypothermia.

Councillor Heath added: "Swimming in open water is completely different to swimming in a safe, controlled swimming pool and can be very dangerous, not least because there may also be unseen hazards."

Air ambulance day brings in £11k-plus

MORE than £11,000 was raised at Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's first ever open day at Tatenhill Airfield.

The Staffordshire airfield was inundated with visitors, with more than 4,000 people attending the free event to find out more about the charity, exploring the helicopters with the aircrew, observing demonstrations of lifesaving treatment and going behind the scenes of the service.

Tatenhill's resident helicopter, with the call sign G-HWAA, was joined by Midlands Air Ambulance Charity's new, larger H145 helicopter, G-RMAA, which is usually based at RAF Cosford, and spare helicopter G-EMAA, to ensure operations weren't affected as a result of the event.

A total of £11,874.24 was raised. Ian Jones, critical care paramedic and aircrew supervisor at the Tatenhill airbase, said: "To raise enough money to fund over four lifesaving missions is absolutely fantastic. A big thanks to everyone."

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£15k boost Welcome as friendly group expands



Places of Welcome volunteers are from throughout the Lichfield district

AN initiative that offers a warm welcome in local communities is set to grow in Lichfield, Burntwood and surrounding areas thanks to a £15,000 funding boost.

Places of Welcome is a network of small community organisations, including churches, who provide an unconditional welcome to local people for at least a few hours each week.

The initiative is spreading across the Midlands and other parts of the

country with more than 200 venues taking part, including seven in the Lichfield district. Places of Welcome are run by local groups who want to make sure that everyone in their area has a place to go for a friendly face, a cup of tea and a conversation.

Lichfield District Council has awarded a £15,000 grant to strengthen and expand the network locally over the next 12 months. The money will be used to fund extra hours for a Places of Welcome enabler to set up new centres in the district. It will also see Simply

ABCD, a community interest company, work with local Places of Welcome to help them develop the skills and interests of those who attend to benefit their communities.

Places of Welcome enabler Helen Titterton said: "Places of Welcome is about opening the door for people to meet others."

"There are Places of Welcome in Lichfield, Burntwood, Fradley, Armitage and Kings Bromley. This funding from Lichfield District Council will keep the momentum going."

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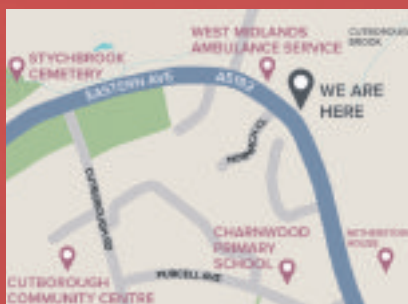
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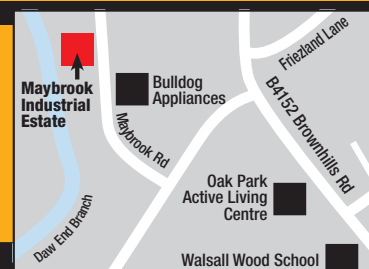
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Top employer award for care firm



Staff from Catherine Care in the spotlight at the awards ceremony held at the ICC in Birmingham

A NORTON Canes care firm is celebrating after winning an award recognising its work supporting people with learning disabilities.

Catherine Care, based at Jerome Business Park, received the accolade at a ceremony at the ICC in Birmingham.

The company was named Employer of 2018 in the Learning Disabilities and Autism Awards 2018.

Company director Sharron Keown said: "This latest

award was very special to us as it is recognised by our peers." The award acknowledges and celebrates an exceptional employer service for customers, people with learning disabilities, or people with autism, and their families.

Catherine Care offers a wide range of services for adults with learning disabilities including residential care, supported living and a community access programme that concentrates on day and evening activities.

County economy 'subdued'

ECONOMIC conditions in Staffordshire remain sluggish, despite improvements in the second quarter of 2018, according to a new report.

The Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce quarterly economic survey found that in the service sector, consumer-facing industries report stronger trading conditions.

Cashflow and investment intentions

in training and machinery are increasing. In the manufacturing sector, the balance of firms reporting increased domestic sales decreased this quarter.

Uncertainty

Manufacturers also reported declining export sales and orders.

Sara Williams, chief executive of Staffordshire Chambers of Commerce, said: "Continually growing international uncertainty, from escalating

trade disputes to oil prices, means Staffordshire's economy continues to grow at a subdued rate.

"Brexit is a key factor but the long-standing UK infrastructure issues are also holding companies' growth and productivity back.

"As we edge closer and closer to Brexit day, Staffordshire firms need clarity, and a strong domestic agenda that looks to fix the basics on which all companies rely."

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AT YOUR LEISURE

Star-studded summer in the inner city

A series of big name concerts are being held in Birmingham city centre during August and September, called the Skyline Series.

Brian Wilson of The Beach Boys, James Arthur, Garbage and The The are coming to Digbeth Arena for a series of open-air inner city concerts, whilst Texas and Imelda May have changed venue to play Symphony Hall under the Skyline banner.

First up on August 24 is music legend Brian Wilson, performing the classic Pet Sounds album. Support from Turin Brakes.

On August 25 the bill topper is James Arthur, who won The X Factor in 2012. He has grown into an accomplished musical artist with hits including Impossible, You're Nobody 'til Somebody Loves You, Say You Won't Let Go and Naked.

A week later, on September 1, Sharleen Spiteri's Texas team up with rockabilly rebel turned torch singer Imelda May. Glasgow's Sharleen and co will be bringing the tour for their latest album Jump On Board to Brum, after Dublin's Imelda sings Garbage to her Life Love Flesh Blood album. Support from British country duo Ward Thomas.

Matt Johnson's 80s hitmakers The The team up with Field Music in Digbeth on September 7. Fresh from accepting a career-crowning NME Icon Award award, Shirley Manson brings Garbage to the city centre venue on September 8. Support from Maximo Park and Honeyblood.

See www.skyline-series.com

The boys are back in town – Iron Maiden at Genting Arena



We've still got passion

IRON MAIDEN will return to Birmingham to headline the city's Genting Arena on Tuesday.

Following the massively successful global tour of 2016-17 in support of their 16th studio album The Book Of Souls, Iron Maiden are back on the road again with the Legacy Of The Beast World Tour.

The concept for the tour was inspired by Maiden's mobile game and comic book of the same name, and the stage set design will feature a number of different but interlocking 'worlds'.

Their set list will cover a large selection of

1980s material with a handful of surprises from later albums.

Maiden drummer Nicko McBrain says the band are enjoying their present tour, having started on May 26 in Tallinn, Estonia, in front of a 10,500-capacity crowd at Saku Suurhall.

At that gig, they kicked off with Aces High, complete with a replica of the iconic Spitfire war plane suspended above the stage, which hadn't been performed since 2014, before continuing with Where Eagles Dare, played for the first time in 13 years.

The show also included The Clansman, Sign Of The Cross, For The Greater Good Of God, The Wicker Man and Flight Of Icarus.

Nicko says: "We've got a lot of production, more so than we normally have. When I say 'production,' I mean lots of effects, lots of special staging.

"Of course, you've got all of the Eddies. There's a lot of fireworks, a lot of wonderful effects. Bruce has staged some wonderful theatrics. But, for us, as a band, it gives us an opportunity to play some of the older stuff we haven't played in a long time."

He admits re-learning some of the high speed drumming has been challenging, adding: "I have to warm myself up because I am an old git. But the thing is with Maiden, we all still really, really have a passion to play live."

New look, old name for theatre

The New Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham is undergoing a £650,000 revamp and will revert to its original name, The Alexandra.

Work has started on a new façade with digital signs, which will be completed this autumn when the popular venue on Suffolk Street Queensway is relaunched with a brand new logo.

The refurbishment will also see a complete facelift of the theatre's historic Grand Circle, with all seats and carpets replaced, improvements to the bar in the Old Foyer, a revamp of all dressing rooms, window improvements and intricate maintenance to the venue's chandelier.

The works follow a previous £1.25 million spend between 2013 and 2015, when the Piano Bar received a complete revamp complete with Baby Grand Piano and resident pianist.

Theatre director Lisa Mart said: "Since opening its doors in 1901, the Alexandra Theatre has become one of the most important and much-loved buildings in Birmingham. We are incredibly excited to have secured the investment to relaunch the venue in a way that not only modernises our external appearance but also celebrates our history by returning to our original name The Alexandra."

Major shows this year include Saturday Night Fever, Motown The Musical, Dirty Dancing, Rock of Ages, Fame the Musical, David Walliams' Awful Auntie and the stage version of TV favourite Benidorm.

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Singer Cariss Auburn



Cariss music videos show love for her home city

"I've got to give credit to my mum, it was her idea for the series."

It might not be seen as rock'n'roll to thank your mum for supporting your fledgling music career – but that sums up the humble attitude of Cariss Auburn.

Wolverhampton born-and-bred, the 27-year-old talks about her love of her home city and her passion for promoting Black History Month.

The 'series' she is talking about is her Wolverhampton Wanders project.

It involves Cariss taking her guitar and a local film crew to her favourite places in the city and performing a song that means something to her.

So far she's filmed four entries which are available on her website and YouTube. The first episode saw her take to the Light House media centre at the Chubb Buildings to perform Mary J Blige's Everything and Sweet Female Attitude's Flowers.

Next up was her performing Water Baby by Tom Misch and Loyale Carner at WV Active Central, before No Doubt's Just A Girl at Wightwick

Manor and Solange's Don't Touch My Hair at the Grand Theatre.

"I've lived here all my life. I went away for uni but came back because it's home," said the former Highfields and Wolverhampton Grammar school pupil. "For this series I decided to connect with my past and visit places I have spent a lot of time at."

Cariss will be appearing at the Live Vibe Festival at Zara's Bar Club in Birmingham on Sunday and is part of the Project Sound Lounge Festival at Birmingham Town Hall on August 18. Visit www.carissaauburnmusic.com

Anton and Erin back to face the music and dance

Strictly Come Dancing veteran Anton Du Beke has announced a major tour early in the new year with his dance partner Erin Boag.

Their latest production, Dance Those Magical Musicals, is scheduled for one West Midlands date at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday, January 26, with 2.30 and 7.30pm performances.

The nation's favourite ballroom couple present a tribute to musical theatre with stunning costumes and breath-taking choreography set to famous tunes from such iconic shows as Phantom of the Opera, Mary Poppins, 42nd Street, Wicked, Top Hat, Hairspray and Jersey Boys.

Joining Anton and Erin on stage will

be the London Concert Orchestra, a sensational dance ensemble and star vocalist, Lance Ellington from TV's Strictly band and son of band leader Ray Ellington.

The show will also feature the popular 'Q and A' section which always leads to some fun interaction with the audience.

Anton said: "Get ready for West End live on the dancefloor! Erin and I can't wait to bring our new show to a venue near you. Expect fabulous dancing, music and song."

Fleet-footed Anton is the last remaining of the original professional dancers in the Strictly line-up and is due to return with the show in September. He made it all the way to the final with Katie Derham in 2015 but is yet to lift the Glitterball trophy.



Anton and Erin dance again

West End star Ruthie joins the Songsters

A West End and Broadway singing star will be joining a Black Country choir for a special show next month.

The Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir from Kingswinford will be joined by Ruthie Henshall for Songsters on Broadway at Dudley Town Hall on September 28 at 7.30pm.

Ruthie Henshall's glittering musical theatre began with Cats in London and includes major roles in Miss Saigon, Les Misérables, Oliver!, She Loves Me (for which she won an Olivier Award), and, most recently, Billy Elliot.

She is also about to become the only British actress to have played all three leading female roles in Chicago, as she has been cast as Mama Morton in the London production, having previously been Olivier Award-nominated for her role as Roxie Hart in 1998 and starring as Velma Kelly on Broadway in 1999.

The Dudley concert will also feature performers from West Midlands operatic societies. Tickets are £18 and £20 via 01746 763850, email gsmvchoir@gmail.com or online via boroughhalls.co.uk, the venue's box office.

You only get an Ooo with Adventure Time

Fans of Cartoon Network's surreal show Adventure Time can now explore the bizarre Land of Ooo themselves in new video game Adventure Time: Pirates of Enchiridion. Pendleton Ward's animated TV series has got a loyal cult following – and not only among children – who delight in its mind-bending imagery, colourful graphics, distinctive slang and dry wit.

Bandai Namco's Pirates of Enchiridion lets gamers set sail as they play as Finn, Jake, BMO and Marceline on a quest to save the melting Ice Kingdom.

The game starts in a flooded Land of Ooo, in which the kingdoms are cut off from each other by rising waters, so Finn (the human) and Jake (the shape-shifting dog) set sail to investigate 'what the junk went down'.

Game play is simple and guided but what will really draw in fans are 3D visuals that perfectly match the look of the show and the involvement of the series' vocal cast. It feels like an interactive extended episode of Adventure Time. The game is available for Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Nintendo Switch and PC.

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CHOICE



Angela Carter

Angela Carter: Of Wolves and Women (BBC2, 9pm)
Documentary looking at the life and career of the novelist, whose surreal imagination produced some of the most dazzling fiction of the 20th century. While Carter's early work drew on her claustrophobic childhood and miserable early marriage, it was her experience of living in Japan in the 1970s that liberated both her writing and her sexuality. The film includes rare archive footage and family photos, with contributions from Angela's friends, family and admirers - including Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie, Jeanette Winterson and Anne Enright. Narrated by Sally Phillips.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nadiya's Family Favourites. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. **1.15** European Championships 2018. Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, featuring the latest track cycling events. Commonwealth points race gold medalist Elinor Barker is expected to be in action at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome, and looking to claim the European title. **4.45** European Championships 2018. Hazel Irvine presents further live coverage of day three of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event in Glasgow, as the men's 100m breaststroke swimming final takes place at the Tollcross International Swimming Centre. Olympic champion and world record holder Adam Peaty will be attempting to add another medal to his growing trophy cabinet, and will start as heavy favourite. **6.40 BBC News.** **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** **European Championships 2018.** Clare Balding and Gabby Logan present continued live coverage of day three of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, where medals are up for grabs in sports including track cycling at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome. Home favourite and defending European champion Katie Archibald will be looking to bring the house down in the women's individual pursuit final. **9.00** **Casualty.** Alicia plucks up her courage to tell the police that she has been raped. Eddie accompanies the paramedics who are called out to treat Jon's wife after she suffers serious burns - and is arrested on his return to the hospital. Bea leaves to make a fresh start in Paris, and Alicia receives an unwelcome visit that has devastating consequences. Last in the series. **9.50** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.10** **Film: Iron Man 3.** (2013) The armoured avenger faces a terrorist whose plans involve a drug that makes people indestructible. Superhero adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr and Gwyneth Paltrow. **12.10** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.35 Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.05** Officially Amazing Goes Bunkers. **7.35** The Dengineers. (R) **8.05** Deadly Dinosaurs with Steve Backshall. (R) **8.35** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities. (R) **9.00** European Championships 2018. **1.15** Kew on a Plate. (R) **2.15** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.00** Wanted Down Under. (R) **3.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.45** Flog It! (R) **5.20** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **5.50** Inventing the Impossible: The Big Life Fix. (R) **6.50** **Proms Extra.** Katie Derham focuses on the BBC SO tackling Shostakovich and two unconventional proms featuring folk music. She is also joined by Kerry Andrew, Golda Schultz and Pekka Kuusisto. **7.30** **Dad's Army.** Captain Mainwaring initiates a recruitment campaign, but makes the mistake of leaving Wilson in charge of the poster. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R) **8.00** **Blitz: The Bombs That Changed Britain.** Documentary telling the stories of specific bombs dropped on Britain during the Blitz, from their impact on individual lives through to the wider consequences for the Second World War. The first film follows a bomb that fell on Martindale Road in the East End of London on the first night of the Blitz. There was relief that it remained unexploded - but tragedy was soon to follow. The story is told through first-hand testimony, diary excerpts and meticulous records kept at the time. (R) **9.00** **Angela Carter: Of Wolves and Women.** Profile of the author, featuring animated sequences inspired by her surreal stories and readings from previously unpublished letters and diaries. Narrated by Sally Phillips. **10.00** **Alan Partridge: Why, When, Where, How and Whom?** Documentary celebrating 25 years of Steve Coogan's comic creation, featuring contributions from writers and co-stars and previously unseen rehearsal and improv footage. (R) **11.00** **Live at the Apollo.** (R) **11.45** **Goit: Women's British Open Highlights.** Elidh Barbour presents action. **12.45** Picnic at Hanging Rock. (R) **1.35** **Film: Jackpot.** (2011) **2.55** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Saturday. **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning. (R) **11.20** James Martin's American Adventure. **11.50** Eat. Shop. Save. (R) **12.20** Love Your Garden. (R) **1.20** ITV News. Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing Live: Glorious Goodwood. Coverage of the fifth day of the event. **4.00** The Chase. (R) **5.00** WOS Wrestling. **6.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **6.15** **Regional Programme:** Weather. **6.30** **Japandemonium.** A review of the best Japanese TV, showcasing some of the maddest and funniest moments ever broadcast. This episode includes displays of nasal weightlifting, a hole in the road, and a show in which real rockets are fired at people. Narrated by Melvin Odom. **7.00** **Big Star's Little Star.** Stephen Mulhern hosts the entertainment show in which the children of Sally Phillips, Samia Longchambon and Kian Egan spill the beans about their famous parents, talking about their home lives, making heart-warming revelations or telling downright embarrassing stories. The contestants are all hoping to win as much money as possible for their chosen charities. **8.00** **Film: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug.** (2013) The party of dwarves and their hobbit ally continue the quest to reclaim their lost kingdom, journeying through the forest home of ancestral enemy the elves and finally facing the dragon that drove them from their home. Meanwhile, Gandalf the wizard investigates the rise of a mysterious dark power. Part two of Peter Jackson's fantasy adventure trilogy based on JRR Tolkien's novel, starring Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Richard Armitage and Orlando Bloom. **11.00** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.20** **Film: Hard Target.** (1993) An out-of-work merchant sailor investigates sadistic hunters who stalk human prey in New Orleans. John Woo's action thriller, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme and Yancy Butler. **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Eternal Glory. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Triathlon: Hevo Festival of Endurance. **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** The King of Queens. (R) **7.30** The King of Queens. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.00** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.30** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **4.30** The People's Vet. **5.30** Escape to the Chateau: DIY. (R) **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **A Year in the New Forest.** In winter, the trees are bare and many creatures are in hibernation, while those that are still awake must do all they can to survive. But as disease threatens to wipe out Ann's fragile young herd of cattle and the forest keepers begin the annual deer cul, death stalks the land. To ward off the cold and dark, the locals take part in an ancient tradition - a dangerous horse race across the forest. **8.00** **My Family and the Galapagos.** Monty Halls tries to determine whether the ecosystems of the Galapagos can cope with the demands of an increasing number of people who live and visit the islands. He joins a survey team monitoring juvenile sharks, performs a terrifying dive at night, and takes his wife and daughters on a visit to the volcanoes of Isabella Island. The family also adopts a more self-sufficient lifestyle, as they start keeping chickens and growing their own food, and learning how to make small scale fishing sustainable. **9.00** **Film: Sisters.** (2015) Premiere. Two estranged sisters are reunited when their parents decide to sell the house they grew up in. They return to the family home to clear out their childhood bedrooms, but with their parents away, seize the chance to relive their teenage years and throw one last wild house party. Comedy, starring Amy Poehler. **11.20** **Film: The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1.** (2011) Romantic fantasy sequel, with Kristen Stewart. **1.25** The Last Leg. (R) **2.20** The Big Narstie Show. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Naughty Toddlers Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.20** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **3.20** Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. (R) **4.20** Bad Tenants, Rogue Landlords. (R) **5.20** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **6.15** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Agents visit a former professional footballer who owes £4,500 in unpaid legal fees, and in London the officers chase up a £4,000 debt owed by a car dealer. (R) **7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v India. Mark Nicholas presents action from the fourth day of the First Test in the five-match series, taking place at Edgbaston. With commentary by Michael Vaughan, Alison Mitchell, Sourav Ganguly, Ebony Rainford-Brent and Charles Dagnall. **7.55** **5 News Weekend.** **8.00** **Blind Date.** A familiar face makes a comeback, as Devorshka from series one returns to pick another date, hoping it will be more successful than her last one. Her potential suitors this time are entertainment manager Wes, life coach Richard and a surprise blast from the past. Also hoping to be picked are Kate from Gloucester, Welsh nurse Sarah and Bath beautician Lucie. Presented by Paul O'Grady. **9.00** **Gino's Win Your Wish List.** Gino D'Acampo hosts this game show in which a family of five contestants choose their dream prizes, then in pairs answer questions to try to bank the items on their wish list. In the final round, two players try to secure all the prizes they have won so far - as well as a dream family holiday. **10.00** **The Women with the World's Biggest Hips.** Documentary about four plus-size women who are proud of their figures and make the most of them, including one whose hips are eight feet in circumference. (R) **11.05** **Too Fat to Work & On Benefits.** The lives of people who rely on benefits, beginning with those who are obese, including a man who thinks employers are prejudiced against fat people. (R) **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Body Donors. (R) **4.45** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Mountain: Life at the Extreme **8.00** Wonders of the Moonson **9.00** Cardinal: Blackfly Season **10.25** The Summer of Love: How Hippies Changed the World **11.25** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.25** Jazz Divas Gold **1.25** Mountain: Life at the Extreme **2.25** Wonders of the Moonson **3.25** Top of the Pops: 1986 **3.55** Close **ITV2**
12.00 Catchphrase **12.40** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Yogi Bear (2010) **3.25** Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **4.25** FYI Daily **4.30** Film: Dr Seuss' The Lorax (2012) **5.10** Film: Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones (2002) **6.10** FYI Daily **6.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones (2002) **7.55** Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) **8.55** FYI Daily **9.00** Film: Johnny English Reborn (2011) **10.00** Keith Lemon: Coming in America **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Evil Wankys **2.10** CelebAbility **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.20 Goodnight Mister Tom **2.30** Inspector Morse **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.05** George and Mildred **2.05** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
12.00 Storage Wars: Texas **1.25** Pawn Stars **3.15** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **4.15** FYI Daily **4.20** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **5.55** Monster Carp **7.00** World Series of Darts: Auckland **11.00** Film: Above the Law (1988) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Above the Law (1988) **1.05** Better Late Than Never **2.00** Minder **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
1.00 The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **8.00** Film: X-Men 2 (2003) **10.40** The Inbetweeners **11.50** Gogglebox **2.00** Tattoo Fixers on Holiday **3.00** The Inbetweeners **3.55** Rude Tube **4.20** Rude(s)h Tube **4.45** How I Met Your Mother **Film4**
11.00 Arriety (2010) **1.00** Rio (2011) **2.50** Capture the Flag (2015) **4.40** Young Sherlock Holmes (1985) **6.55** Home Alone (1990) **9.00** Transporter 3 (2008) Underworld courier Frank Martin transports the kidnapped daughter of a crooked government minister across Europe. Action thriller sequel, with Jason Statham and Natalya Rudakova. **11.05** The Cabin in the Woods (2012) **12.55** Spirited Away (2001) **3.25** Close

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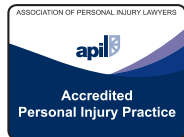
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CHOICE



Arthur Williams

Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams (Channel 4, 7pm)

New series. A former royal marine explores Britain from the air in his own 1943 single-seater aeroplane. His journey begins in the West Country, taking in the rolling hills and open plains of Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset. Along the way he meets fellow aviation enthusiasts, including an aerobatic champion, a Cotswold craftsman who makes wooden propellers, and a man working on a jet-propelled flying suit. He also attends a public flying display and attempts a landing on a reproduction aircraft carrier.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **9.00** BBC News. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **11.25** Songs of Praise. (R) **12.00** BBC News. Weather. **12.15** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. St Helens v Catalans Dragons (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Challenge Cup Rugby League. Warrington Wolves v Leeds Rhinos (Kick-off 2.45pm). **5.00** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.50** BBC News.

6.05 Regional Programme.

6.15 **Countryfile.** The show comes from East Yorkshire, where John Craven meets Bridlington residents who take traditional cable boats out to sea. Margherita Taylor uncovers a secret art trail in the Wolds and meets poet Ian MacMillan, and Steve Brown learns about different uses for hemp. Plus, Charlotte Smith reports on the impact of tourism on beauty spots and Adam Benson meets a farmer with an active online presence.

7.15 **Antiques Roadshow.** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Trellisick House and gardens in Cornwall, with unusual finds ranging from an ejector seat from a bomber to a miniature sewing kit.

8.15 **Film: Florence Foster Jenkins.** (2016) Premiere. A tone deaf socialite imagines she is a great singer, and her conniving yet devoted husband allows her to remain in her fantasy by holding concerts with small, invited audiences. However, reality threatens to intrude when she announces her intention of realising a lifelong dream of performing in New York's Carnegie Hall, recruiting a struggling young pianist to aid her. Fact-based comedy, starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.

10.30 MOTD: Community Shield Highlights. Manchester City v Chelsea. Gary Lineker presents action from the curtain-raiser to the top-flight campaign, as the Premier League and FA Cup winners clashed at Wembley Stadium.

11.15 **Imagine: Jeannette Winterson – My Monster and Me.** Writer Jeannette Winterson talks about her childhood in Lancashire. (R)

12.30 Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.20 Glorious Gardens from Above. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** European Championships 2018. Live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring rowing, track cycling, swimming, synchronised swimming and gymnastics. **12.15** European Championships 2018. Further live coverage of day four of the inaugural staging of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, featuring road cycling, synchronised swimming, rowing and gymnastics. **5.00** European Championships 2018. Gabby Logan and Clare Balding introduce further live coverage of day four of the multi-sports event from Glasgow, as track cycling and swimming dominate the schedule this evening.

9.00 **Travels in Trumpland with Ed Balls.** Ed investigates America's gun culture, travelling to Louisiana, the state with the highest statistics for gun murders. He goes on patrol with a sheriff's deputy, who discusses the challenges of policing a heavily armed population, and spends the night in jail with some Trump supporting criminals. He moves on to Parkland in Florida, where he meets survivors of a recent school shooting who are campaigning for stricter gun ownership laws.

10.00 **Film: Nightcrawler.** (2014) A cynical petty crook is inspired when he sees a freelance camera crew, and decides to go into business filming crime scenes and accidents, then selling the footage to news broadcasters. His determination to stay ahead of the competition leads him down a dark path as his methods become increasingly ruthless. Crime drama, starring Jake Gyllenhaal, Rene Russo and Bill Paxton.

11.50 **Golf: Women's British Open Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from the fourth and final day of the event, which this year is staged at Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club in Lancashire.

12.50 Sign Zone: Countryfile. The team visits Exmoor, where Matt Baker attends a residential course teaching children outdoor skills and Margherita Taylor goes in search of the UK's most endangered butterfly. (R) **1.45** Holby City. Fletch is shocked by a face from his past and Hansen attempts to express his feelings. (R) **2.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Sooty. **6.10** Make It Pop. (R) **6.35** Dino Dana. (R) **6.50** Mission Employable. (R) **6.55** The Oddbods Show. (R) **7.05** NinjaGo: Possession. (R) **7.30** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **7.55** Drop Dead Weird. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Zoe Ball on Sunday. **9.25** Japandemonium. (R) **9.50** Cannonball Splash Hits. (R) **10.55** Ninja Warrior UK. (R) **12.00** WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.00** ITV News. Weather. **1.15** Big Star's Little Star. (R) **2.15** Catchphrase. (R) **3.00** Tenable. (R) **4.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **5.00** The Chase. (R)

6.00 **Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs.** Paul helps to train an over-excited beagle, and also meets a toy poodle and a pug that came in as a pair but might be better off finding new homes separately. (R)

6.30 **ITV News.** Weather.

6.45 **Regional Programme.** Weather.

7.00 **Midsomer Murders.** The murder of Midsomer resident and biscuit factory boss Eric Calder leads Barnaby and Nelson to Copenhagen. The pair join forces with local female detectives Birgitte Poulsen and Anna Degn in the hunt for the killer, and during the course of their investigation they discover the businessman had numerous links to the capital. Anglo-Danish collaboration originally shown to mark Midsomer's 100th episode, guest starring Ann Eleonora Jorgensen (The Killing), Birgitte Hjort Sorensen (Borgen), Sanjeev Bhaskar and Joanna Scanlan, alongside Neil Dudgeon. (R)

9.00 **Unforgotten.** As it becomes clear the suspects are lying, Jake goes in search of Tim Finch's ex-wife to hear her version of events – and uncovers disturbing information about Chris Love's past.

10.00 **ITV News.** Weather.

10.20 **Carry On Forever.** A look at the golden age of the comedy franchise in the mid to late 1960s, with Amanda Barrie revealing what life was like on the set of Carry On Cleo. (R)

11.20 **Tonight at the London Palladium.** Bradley Walsh welcomes the cast of 42nd Street to the famous stage, headed by Sheena Easton. Plus, music from Rick Astley, Imelda Staunton and US vocalist Lea Michele. (R)

12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 Motor Sport: Volkswagen Racing Cup. **6.40** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **1.00** The Simpsons. (R) **1.30** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Dog Days. (2012) Family comedy sequel, starring Zachary Gordon. **3.25** Location, Location. (R) **4.25** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.30** Homes by the Med. (R)

6.30 **Channel 4 News.**

7.00 **Flying Across Britain with Arthur Williams.** New series. A former royal marine explores Britain from the air in his own single-seater aeroplane. His journey begins in the West Country, where he meets an aerobatic champion.

8.00 **Hidden Britain by Drone.** New series. Tony Robinson presents a second series of the programme that uses drones to shoot aerial footage of areas of Britain that are off limits to the public. In the first episode, he dispatches flying cameras to explore an abandoned theme park, an immense stately home and underground wine vaults belonging to billionaires. The programme also examines the secrets that Argos conceals from the eyes of its customers and contains footage of a flower farm in full bloom, which is closed to the public for 50 weeks of the year.

9.00 **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offered is sent to a familiar place, while Emily is assigned to a mysterious new house. Guest starring Bradley Whitford (The West Wing).

10.10 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers-quiz, inviting Sean Lock and Rob Beckett to take on Jon Richardson and Claudia Winkleman. (R)

11.10 **The Shopping Centre: Artist in Residence.** Artist Rachel McLean spends a month living in Birmingham's Bullring Shopping Centre, and makes a film exploring happiness with the help of a large pink rabbit. Last in the series.

12.15 Film: Devil's Knot. (2013) **2.15** Film: Chevalier. (2015) **4.00** Gillette World Sport. **4.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **5.25** Star Boot Sale. (R) **5.50** Kirstie's Vintage Gems. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Little Princess. **6.10** Wissper. (R) **6.20** Poppy Cat. (R) **6.30** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.35** The Secret Life of Kittens. (R) **6.40** Seaside Antics. (R) **6.45** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **6.50** Simon. (R) **7.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.15** Thomas & Friends: Extraordinary Engines. (R) **7.30** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.50** Rusty Rivets. (R) **8.00** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.20** Pirata & Capitano. **8.35** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.50** Floogals. (R) **9.05** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.30** Digby Dragon. (R) **9.50** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.00** Peppa Pig. (R) **10.05** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** Police Interceptors. (R) **11.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.20** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) **1.20** Access. **1.25** Film: Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang. (2010) Concluded. **2.25** Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) **3.25** Access. **3.30** Film: 13 Going on 30. (2004) Concluded. **4.30** Film: Cars. (2006) **5.30** Access. **5.35** Film: Cars. (2006) Concluded.

6.10 **Chuckie Time with the Chuckle Brothers.** The comedy duo introduce this new clip-show, featuring the funniest fails, flops and falls uploaded to the internet.

6.55 **5 News Weekend.**

7.00 **Cricket on 5.** England v India. Action from the fifth day of the First Test in the five-match series, taking place at Edgbaston.

8.00 **Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl.** (2003) A rogue captain and a blacksmith set sail to rescue a governor's daughter from feared supernatural pirates. Swashbuckling fantasy adventure, starring Johnny Depp and Orlando Bloom.

9.00 **5 News Update.**

9.05 **Film: Pirates of the Caribbean: The Curse of the Black Pearl.** (2003) Concluded.

10.50 **Film: Green Lantern.** (2011) A pilot joins a galactic peacekeeping force with incredible powers and defends Earth from an alien attack. Sci-fi adventure, starring Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively.

11.50 **Access.** Showbiz news and gossip.

11.55 **Film: Green Lantern.** (2011) Concluded.

1.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** Autopsy: The Last Hours of Joan Rivers. (R) **4.00** Get Your Tatts Out: Kavos Ink. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four

7.00 BBC Proms 2018 **9.00** Archaeology: A Secret History **10.00** Entertaining the Troops **11.00** Arena: Whatever Happened to Spitting Image? **12.00** Africa's Magnificent Beasts **1.00** Timeshift: The Ladybird Books Story – The Bugs That Got Britain Reading **2.00** Arena: American Epic **3.00** Archaeology: A Secret History **4.00** Close

ITV2

1.35 You've Been Framed! Gold **2.05** Film: Step Up Revolution (2012) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: Step Up Revolution (2012) **4.10** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **5.10** FYI Daily **5.15** Film: The Smurfs (2011) **6.15** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) **7.15** FYI Daily **7.20** Film: Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith (2005) **9.00** Love Island: The Reunion **10.35** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **1.35** FYI Daily **1.40** Film: Keith Lemon: The Film (2012) **2.10** Totally Borkers Guinness World Records **2.25** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3

12.50 Rosemary & Thyme **3.55** Victoria **5.55** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **10.00** The Halcyn **12.05** Wire in the Blood **1.50** Blue Murder **3.35** Road to Avonlea **5.15** Judge Judy **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

ITV4

11.50 River Monsters **12.55** Monster Carp **2.00** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **3.05** FYI Daily **3.10** Film: Battle of Britain (1969) **4.40** Film: Escape to Victory (1981) **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** Film: Escape to Victory (1981) **7.00** World Series of Darts: Auckland. **11.00** Film: Payback (1999) **12.00** FYI Daily **12.05** Film: Payback (1999) **1.05** The Motorbike Show **2.05** The Protectors **2.30** World Cup Reviews: Brazil v Italy **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping

E4

11.30 Film: Dr Dolittle (1998) **1.10** Rude(s)h Tube Shorts **1.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.30** Young Sheldon **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** Film: Escape Plan (2013) **11.15** Gogglebox **12.20** The Big Bang Theory **1.10** Tattoo Fixers **2.15** Rude Tube **3.10** Holyoaks

Film4

11.00 Thunderbirds Are Go! (1966) **1.00** Garfield: A Tale of Two Kitties (2006) **2.35** Kiki's Delivery Service (1989) **4.45** Misamint (2010) **6.40** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **9.00** Victor Frankenstein (2015) **11.10** Out of the Furnace (2013) **1.25** The Rise (2012) **3.40** Close

32nd Annual Koi Show

11th & 12th August 2018

OPENING TIMES

10:00AM – 4:00PM
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OAPS £2.00
UNDER 16'S 50P



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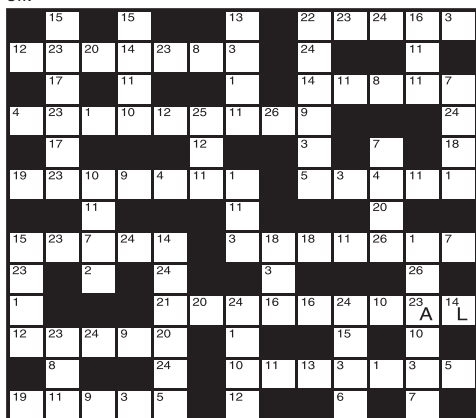
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 Tel: 01922 418050 Email: sales@hollybush-garden.com
 Website: www.hollybush-garden.com

BRAIN GYM

No.491

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
R	H	I	J	Y	W	C	P	K	B	N	M	L
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
E	D	Q	O	U	S	G	X	T	Z	F	V	A

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Pure description of one having no rash appearance (8)
- It's an ingredient in oriental cosmetics (4)
- Constitute a bench (4)
- Shocking derision from a militant Puritan (8)
- I love to change into this material (5)
- Made by craftsmen approximate in weight (7)
- Fliers that give song near the southern border? (5-8)
- Causes misery to ten involved in dreadful storm (8)
- A route on holiday (4)
- Devilish attribute of the wicked pupil? (4-3)
- A group performing in the stalls (5)
- An indication of spontaneous ignition (4)
- It's a prey to unusual harshness (8)

Down

- Act as sponsor and do some upgrading (7)
- Delay the sentence on a convict (4-3)
- Being used at bedtime, it could provide the warmest starts! (5,8)
- Feeling a thrill when there's a giant reformation by the French (7)
- Originates a secret formula! (7)
- Some of the foemen Tom blatantly put in a grave position (6)
- Dogs from the streets (7)
- Grace may come before this, sweetheart (7)
- Football team partly cancel event (6)
- Hide the real mixture (7)
- He has no fancy ideas about a catalogue (7)



Quick Clues:

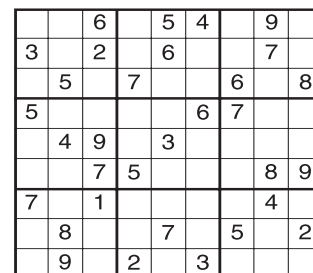
Across

- Hallow (8)
- Ostentation (4)
- Plot (4)
- Custom (8)
- Exclude (5)
- Building (7)
- Turmoil (5,2,6)
- Friendly (8)
- Achievement (4)
- Bishopric (7)
- Indefinite (5)
- Ogle (4)
- Agreed (8)

Down

- Illness (7)
- Touch (7)
- Poor memory (13)
- Aperture (7)
- Give (7)
- Deed (6)
- Disgrace (7)
- Fatty (7)
- Rubber (6)
- Chorus (7)
- Enactment (7)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	1	5	3	2	9	8	6	7
8	9	3	4	6	7	5	2	1
6	7	2	5	8	1	9	4	3
9	4	8	6	1	5	3	7	2
7	2	6	8	3	4	1	9	5
5	3	1	9	7	2	4	8	6
3	8	7	1	9	6	2	5	4
1	6	4	2	5	8	7	3	9
2	5	9	7	4	3	6	1	8

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Pamela; 4 Staple; 9 Take a back seat; 10 Untuned; 11 Okapi; 12 Weird; 14 Affix; 18 Roots; 19 Entrant; 21 Determination; 22 Lifted; 23 Stones. Down: 1 Put out; 2 Make the most of; 3 Learn; 5 Take-off; 6 Prevarication; 7 Entail; 8 Hardy; 13 Reserve; 15 Bridal; 16 Let in; 17 Stands; 20 Trail.
QUICK - Across: 1 Candle; 4 Result; 9 Afforestation; 10 Untuned; 11 After; 12 Rover; 14 Pearl; 18 Upset; 19 Refusal; 21 Premeditation; 22 Tested; 23 League. Down: 1 Chance; 2 Nefariousness; 3 Large; 5 Emanate; 6 Uninteresting; 7 Tenure; 8 Askew; 13 Extreme; 15 Output; 16 Grain; 17 Plunge; 20 Frame.

Quiz

- What is a line of equal temperature on a map called?
- Of which race was Goliath champion?
- Which Italian region includes Naples and Capri?
- Which decorative work's name is derived from the Arabic for 'striped cloth'?
- Which singer was known as Lady Day?
- Who set a World Cup scoring record with five goals against Cameroon?
- On which day of the week is Thanksgiving Day held in the USA?
- In which country is the Orange River?
- In which country is the CERN nuclear research organisation based?
- Who wrote Little Lord Fauntleroy in 1886?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Turkey; 2 Electron; 3 Ethiopia;
4 Kansas; 5 Dressage; 6 Humphry Davy;
7 Kidneys; 8 Musicals; 9 New York; 10 Barbra Streisand.

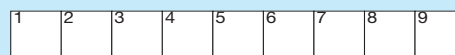
Niner: GRAPESHOT

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

547189
163124
2462

gives an element,
gives a second element,
gives a third element.



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Re-modelled bungalow with three bedrooms

A refurbished and detached bungalow, 12 Brindley Bank Road, Rugeley, lies at the end of a popular cul-de-sac.

It is for sale through JR Properties at £239,950 with no chain.

This three bedroom bungalow has been re-modelled and refurbished throughout by the current owner and has a re-fitted luxury bathroom and grey gloss high end kitchen. Also coming with a lovely private south facing garden, it must be viewed, said a spokesman for the selling agents.

It has an entrance hallway, a lounge, a re-fitted kitchen/diner, a bathroom with a white suite including a roll top bath and three bedrooms.

In more detail a pathway leads to the front door.

The entrance hallway has two ceiling light points, a radiator, wooden flooring and access to all rooms.

The lounge has a ceiling light point, a radiator and a wall mounted fire. This room also has a Upvc double glazed bow window to the front aspect.

Being re-fitted, the kitchen/diner comprises of a superb high gloss grey kitchen, having a range of wall and base units with over counter granite worktops, an inset sink with a mixer tap and drainer, an integrated electric oven, hob, dishwasher and extractor fan. There is also tiled splash-backs and tiled flooring, a ceiling light point, radiator, Upvc double glazed window and a Upvc double glazed door leading to the side of the property.

Bedroom one has a ceiling light point, radiator and Upvc double glazed window to the rear.

Bedroom two has a ceiling light point, a radiator and a Upvc double glazed window to the front.

Bedroom three has a ceiling light point, a radiator and Upvc double glazed French doors onto the patio in the rear garden.

RUGELEY £239,950

TO VIEW THIS PROPERTY

AGENT: Jr Properties

TEL: 01889 577731

EMAIL: enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com



KEY FEATURES

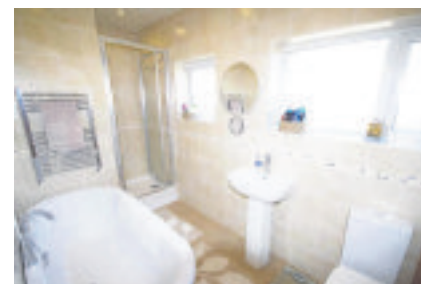
Detached bungalow

Re-modelled & refurbished

3 bedrooms

Popular cul-de-sac position

No chain



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JR
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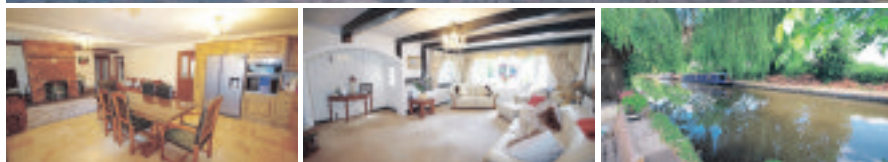
T:01889 577731

E:enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com

Churchdale Cottage, Rugeley

£699,950

NEW



●● Including additional two bedroom coach house●● JR Distinctive Homes are delighted to offer for sale this stunning traditional family residence with a waterside location which has to be seen to be believed! Churchdale Cottage represents a rare opportunity to acquire a very substantial property in this unique canal side setting on the edge of Rugeley

Oakwood, Etching Hill

£500,000 OIEO

NEW



JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this executive detached family home in an exceptional location on the rural fringes of Cannock Chase-An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This beautifully presented family homes offers flexible accommodating and enjoys a mature garden plot in an exclusive private drive with its very own copse situated to the side

Armitage Road, Rugeley

£399,950

NEW



JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this superb traditional detached property which has been upgraded and refurbished throughout by the present vendors. Offering flexible family accommodation and situated on a large garden plot with extensive parking this property simply has to be viewed to appreciate. Dating back to circa 1880

Pinetrees, Cannock Chase

£349,950

NEW



JR Distinctive Homes are pleased to offer for sale this superb executive detached property situated on a select development on the rural fringes of Cannock Chase. Offering flexible family sized accommodation this property is the largest design on the development with four generous bedrooms, four bathrooms and three reception rooms. A detached garage

Distinctive Homes



www.jrpropertiesstaffs.com

25B Horsefair, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 2EJ

JR
PROPERTIES

T:01889 577731

E:enquiries@jrpropertiesstaffs.com

Lower Birches Way, Rugeley £275,000

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this spacious detached property situated on a generous garden plot with detached garage to the side. Offered with No Upward Chain all reasonable offers will be considered for a quick sale. The property comprises: Hallway, Study, Family Room, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Guest WC,

Brindley Bank Road, Rugeley £239,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this refurbished detached bungalow situated at the end of a popular cul-de-sac. Offered with no upward chain this three bedroom bungalow has been remodeled and refurbished throughout by the current seller and has a refitted luxury bathroom and grey gloss high end kitchen

St Johns Drive, Hawksyard £229,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious three bedroom detached family home situated on the ever popular Hawksyard development. The property sits on a corner position at the beginning of the development and overlooks a green area to the front. Internally the current vendors have

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Durham Drive, Rugeley £224,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this very well presented and much improved link detached family home. Situated on a private garden corner plot this three bedroom family home offers flexible accommodation and must be viewed to appreciate: Accommodation in brief comprises: Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Large

Lockside View, Rugeley £189,995

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious three bedroom semi detached property located close to the town centre and local amenities. Internal inspection is highly recommended. Accommodation comprises: Hallway, Lounge, Breakfast Kitchen, Three bedrooms, Bathroom, Front and rear

Lansdowne Way, Rugeley £149,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious semi detached property in a popular location. The property is offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN and the accommodation comprises: Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Front and Rear Gardens with garage (separate

Eaton Drive, Rugeley £179,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this three/four bedroom three storey town house situated in a popular location. The property is offered with no upward chain and offers family sized flexible accommodation with accommodation briefly comprises: Hallway, guest wc, family room/bedroom four, utility room, conservatory,

The Rise, Brereton £114,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this two bedroom semi detached property located on a corner position being an ideal FTB/ Investment purchase. All reasonable offers will be considered for a quick sale and the accommodation in brief comprises: Hallway, Lounge/ Diner, Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Bedrooms, Modern

Eaton Drive, Rugeley £159,950

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this unusual three bedroom town house in a popular location. This property is of a unique design and must be viewed to appreciate the deceptive accommodation on offer. To the rear is a superb private garden with two allocated parking spaces..

Hednesford Road, Rugeley £169,995

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this immaculately presented three bedroom town house. The property is located in a good position with private walled gardens and two allocated parking spaces. Internally there are three bedrooms, lounge, large kitchen, guest wc and delightful conservatory to rear

Chester Road, Rugeley £135,000

NEW



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this lovely two bedroom town house situated on the popular Birches development. Having an enviable location in a small row of properties with open aspect to front and side with No Upward Chain. Ideal FTB/ Investment purchase, viewing essential

Buckmaster Way, Rugeley £186,000 OIEO

STAR BUY



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this exceptionally well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated on Ravenhill Park. Having the benefit of two allocated side by side parking spaces to the front and an abundance of upgrades throughout the property must be viewed to appreciate and is an ideal

Sheringham Drive, Etching £265,000

MUST BE VIEWED



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this extended three double bedroom bungalow situated at the end of a cul-de-sac. The bungalow sits on an elevated plot with far reaching views to the front and internal inspection is highly recommended to appreciate the spacious design and layout, also offered with NO UPWARD CHAIN

Salisbury Close, Rugeley £299,950 OIEO

EXECUTIVE



● JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this well presented and spacious four bedroom detached property situated on a corner plot with views towards Cannock Chase to rear. The property benefits from refitted bathrooms, large reception rooms, plentiful parking to front and landscaped rear garden, viewing essential

Lion Street, Rugeley £265,950

MUST BE VIEWED



● "White Lion Inn" JR Properties are pleased to offer for sale this detached family home dating from 1800 in town centre location. Having Kitchen, Lounge, Dining Room, Study and Utility Room. Landing to Master Bedroom with En Suite, Four further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Good sized garden and parking

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The Hollies
CHESLYN HAY



Outstanding six bedroom detached family home / Set on an exclusive private cul-de-sac / Sought after village of Cheslyn Hay / Finished to a show home standard throughout / Six large well proportioned

£450,000

Heather Valley
HEDNESFORD



Stunning four bedroom detached family home / Set on highly sought after semi rural area / Occupies good sized corner plot / Mature three tier private rear garden / Driveway for up to six vehicles

£450,000

Littleworth Road
RAWNSLEY



Five bedroom detached family home / NO UPWARD CHAIN / Breakfast kitchen / Drive for more than ten vehicles / Enclosed rear garden / EPC: C

Offers in Excess of £400,000

Castlecroft
NORTON CANES



Immaculately presented executive four bedroom detached house / Exclusive sought after cul-de-sac location / Spacious reception rooms & bedrooms / Victorian style conservatory / Garage and drive

£375,000

Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY



Truly stunning executive detached family home / Finished to a show house standard and immaculately presented throughout / Completely refurbished over the past year / Superb new high spec fitted kitchen,

£350,000

Wellington Drive
CANNOCK



Outstanding & superbly maintained four/five bedroom detached family home / Set in quiet semi rural location overlooking woodland to the front / Immaculately presented & finished to high standard

£335,000

Canterbury Way
HEATH HAYES



Truly outstanding executive detached four bedroom family home / Finished to a show house standard and immaculately presented throughout / Stunning open plan high spec dining kitchen / Delightful

Offers in Excess of £270,000

Stafford Lane
HEDNESFORD



Immaculately presented three bedroom detached house / Substantially improved property / Spacious lounge / Good sized bedrooms / Garage and driveway

£260,000

Redmond Close
ETCHING HILL



NO UPWARD CHAIN / Stunning four bedroom detached family home / Set on end plot within quiet cul-de-sac / Refurbished & finished to high standard throughout / Brand new combi boiler / Contemporary

£259,000

Hill Street
NORTON CANES



Immaculate three bedroom semi detached dormer bungalow / Set over floors / Situated in quiet cul-de-sac / Open plan kitchen diner / Stunning orangery to rear / Substantial first floor converted dormer

Offers in Excess of £240,000

Watermint Close
WIMBLEBURY



Three bedroom detached family home / Sought after location / Off road parking for 2/3 / Victorian pitched roof conservatory / Spacious lounge & separate dining room

Offers in Excess of £240,000

Pine Close
GREAT WYRLEY



Deceptively spacious two bedroom detached bungalow / Immaculately presented throughout with tasteful decoration / Modern fitted open plan kitchen-diner / Driveway with parking for up

£230,000

Devonshire Drive
RUGELEY



Refurbished three bedroom semi detached bungalow / Spacious open plan living area / Three double bedrooms / Modern fitted bathroom with skylight / Parking & garage to the rear

Offers in the Region Of £220,000

Carlton Close
HEATH HAYES



Three bedroom detached family home / Large corner plot within a sought after location / Open plan kitchen-diner finished to a high specification / Delightful south facing private rear garden

£220,000

Armitage Lane
BRERETON



Deceptively spacious four bedroom semi detached house / Spacious lounge-diner / Large breakfast kitchen / Conservatory / Versatile ground floor bedroom / En-suite to master / Private rear garden

£195,000

Bond Way
HEDNESFORD



Well presented three bedroom detached house / Occupies corner plot / Good sized lounge & open plan kitchen / Two car driveway / Private rear garden

£190,000

Holt Crescent
HEATH HAYES



Three bedroom semi detached house / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Refurbished property / Quiet end plot / Spacious open plan lounge-diner / Integral garage and driveway

£180,000

Wolverhampton Road
CANNOCK



Deceptively spacious two/three bedroom dormer style bungalow / ●●●NO ONWARD CHAIN●●● / Delightful rear conservatory / Low maintenance rear garden / Garage and driveway

£175,000

Pye Green Road
CANNOCK



Well presented three bedroom semi detached house / Built in popular 1930's style / Set on good sized plot & recently refurbished throughout / Superb spacious open plan dining kitchen

Offers in the Region Of £175,000

The Lindens
RUGELEY



Three bedroom town house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Modern kitchen-diner / Integral garage and a private double driveway / Top floor master bedroom with en-suite

£170,000

Linden View
HEDNESFORD



Three bedroom semi-detached house / Quiet cul-de-sac / Spacious lounge and separate dining room / Detached garage and driveway / Potential to extend

£170,000

Foster Avenue
HEDNESFORD



Traditional three bedroom semi detached house / Good sized private rear garden / Spacious lounge and open plan kitchen-diner / Driveway with parking for two vehicles

£150,000

Chequers Court
NORTON CANES



Well presented and deceptively spacious two bedroom property / Close to local shops and amenities / Close to local shops and amenities / Driveway with parking for two vehicles / Private rear garden

£145,000

Priory Road
BRERETON



Deceptively spacious two bedroom semi detached house / Set on generous plot / Ideal for first time buyers & investors / Gated driveway with parking for two vehicles / Surrounding gardens with hedged

£140,000

Newhall Street
CANNOCK



Deceptively spacious traditional end terrace house / Two spacious reception rooms / Two double bedrooms / NO ONWARD CHAIN / Good sized private rear garden

Offers in Excess of £130,000

Cannock Road
CANNOCK



Three bedroom mid terraced / spacious open plan living area / private rear garden / Ideal for first time buyers and investors

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Well-presented home on a very popular estate

This beautifully presented stunning three-bedroomed detached property in Newlands Lane, Heath Hayes, Cannock, is for sale through Jayman Estate Agents at £270,000.

The property itself is situated within close proximity of all local schools including Gorsemoor and Five Ways primary schools, all local amenities

HEATH HAYES
£270,000

and transport links. The property in brief comprises an entrance hall, a lounge, a conservatory and an open plan kitchen/diner. To the first floor, the home has a large master

bedroom with a dressing area and en-suite, two further bedrooms and a family bathroom.

Outside the property features a detached garage, a front garden, off-road parking and a private well-maintained rear garden with a patio, plus decked and lawned areas.

Call Jaymans on 01543 505566.



Prime residential area with open aspect to rear

With the stamp duty paid by the owner, this four-bedroomed detached house for sale in West Butts Road, Etching Hill, is for sale through JR Distinctive Homes at £540,000.

This large executive home is situated in a prime residential area with an open aspect to the rear.

The Old Post Office, as the

ETCHING HILL
£540,000

property is locally known, combines traditional features and proportions whilst having been re-modelled, re-fitted and much improved by the current vendors.

To the front and side of the property is an extensive driveway with gates leading to a detached double garage to the rear of the plot. The rear garden is well-maintained and is divided into vegetable garden, a large patio and seating and lawned areas with trees and shrubbery.

Contact JR Distinctive Homes on 01889 577731.



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- Awaiting EPC rating

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STATION STREET



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- EPC rating G

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New Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV arrives in the UK

In preparation for the launch of the new 2019 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV, which went on sale in the UK this week, the first shipment of vehicles has arrived in the UK at Bristol's Royal Portbury Docks, with more shipments set to dock in the following weeks.

This first batch of 400 vehicles will enable Mitsubishi Motors in the UK to meet a surge in demand for the UK's most popular plug-in vehicle, and will be closely followed by nearly 2,000 vehicles in the coming weeks. The new 2019 Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV has been engineered to meet the latest emissions regulations and comfortably qualifies for the government plug-in car grant thanks to its WLTP emissions of 46g/km and EV range of 28 miles, while also attracting the lowest possible BIK rate of 13 per cent.

These impressive figures are a direct result of the extensive revisions the car has received for 2019. A new 2.4-litre Atkinson-cycle petrol engine produces 135hp (up from 121hp) across a wider rev range. The rear electric motor output increases to 95hp and the drive battery benefits from a 10% increase in output, the overall capacity is increased to 13.8kWh thanks to new battery cells, all of these results in WLTP combined fuel economy of 139mpg.

To complement the drivetrain



enhancements, a number of other changes ensure the Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV is even more pleasurable to drive.

The new Mitsubishi Outlander PHEV is also quieter and more refined, with more comfort and supportive front seats, new switchgear, a revised

instrument cluster, the addition of rear ventilation vents, and more convenient USB ports.

In terms of exterior style, there's a new front end with a redesigned grille with honeycomb mesh, new bumper extension and new headlamp design with LED hi-beams.

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11 500 1.2 LOUNGE



16 FIESTA 1.5 TDCI TITANIUM



65 NOTE 1.5 VISIA DCI RCL



64 AYGO 1.0 VTI EXP



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*Please consult dealer for full terms and conditions of Motability offers. Pictures for illustration purposes only

MOTORING

A facelift for SsangYong's seven-seater Turismo MPV

By James Parker

The capacious seven-seater SsangYong Turismo has received a substantial front-end facelift to bring it into line with other models in the SsangYong range.

Complete with LED daytime running lights, the car sports an elegant and sophisticated front-look with greatly enhanced road presence.

The top-of-the-range Turismo ELX comes with selectable four-wheel drive, a 7-speed Mercedes-Benz automatic transmission, cruise control, parking sensors, rear seating privacy glass, 16" alloy wheels, roof rails, heated front seats, rain sensing wipers and automatic headlights.

Infotainment

It also now includes a smart infotainment system with Bluetooth, RDS, DAB radio, Apple Carplay and Android Auto plus a rear view camera.

At over five-metres long and with a three-metre wheelbase, Turismo is larger than a standard sized MPV people carrier, and features a powerful 2.2 litre diesel engine.

Thanks to its 3,000mm wheelbase, Turismo provides a huge interior space where seven adults can travel in supreme comfort with their luggage loaded in the back, and without having to compromise on passenger



There's 875 litres of luggage space with seven adults seated

accommodation. There are three rows of seats as well as the large load area which can be further increased by removing the third row completely. This gives a massive load carrying capability of between 875 litres with seven adults seated,

through to two adults and 3,146 litres of load space.

The new Turismo is on sale now, with prices ranging from £20,495 for the two-wheel drive EX, to £26,995 for the ELX with four-wheel drive, and is also available through Motability.

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New Kia Ceed now on sale in the UK

By Sharon Walters

Kia's Ceed has just entered its third generation and the South Korean firm has now revealed pricing and specifications for the UK market.

On sale this week, the hatchback will start from £18,295 and be offered in four trim variants, with three engines and two gearbox options available.

Starting the range are '2' models. As standard, they're fitted with 16-inch alloy wheels, cruise control and a seven-inch touchscreen infotainment system with Bluetooth connectivity, along with support for Android Auto and Apple CarPlay.

Special

Blue Edition trim comes next in the range and is a special-edition model at launch, bringing all the equipment over from '2' and adding 17-inch alloys, privacy glass, electric folding mirrors, rear parking sensors and LED headlights.

The infotainment screen is also upgraded to eight inches and gains a TomTom sat nav. As the name suggests, just the one colour is available for this trim – Blue Flame. It's priced from £21,095.

Following on is the '3' grade. This builds even further on the Blue Edition, adding rain-sensing wipers, dual-zone climate control, LED indicators, an auto-dimming rear-view mirror and a 4.2-inch information display in the gauge cluster.

Pricing for '3' Ceed variants has yet to be confirmed, though.



The hatchback will start from £18,295



There are three engine options

At the top of the range is the limited-run First Edition trim, available for a limited time following the launch of the Ceed.

Taking all the equipment available on '3', First Edition cars gain tonnes of luxury

extras – with the highlight being Kia's Smart Park Assist System, which allows the Ceed to automatically park itself in parallel and perpendicular spaces.

Other features include black leather electric seats, LED headlights, adaptive cruise control,

an electric sunroof, keyless start and an eight-speaker JBL audio system. First Edition models start at £25,750.

As for engine choices, there are two petrol and a diesel. Petrol options are either a 1.0-litre or 1.4-litre unit, both turbocharged, with

the former exclusively paired to a six-speed manual gearbox, while the latter has the option of a seven-speed automatic alongside the manual.

As for diesel, that's a 1.6-litre unit, available with both gearbox variants.



First Edition cars gain tonnes of luxury extras – with the highlight being Kia's Smart Park Assist System

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Plenty of tech and still leader of pack

By Jon Reay

Twenty years after the first Focus was launched, Ford's mid-sized hatch might not be the sales chart-topper it once was – now usurped by its smaller sibling, the Fiesta – but there's no underestimating how important it still is to the brand and to buyers in the UK.

As you'd expect, Ford isn't messing around here. This fourth-generation car is entirely new, is filled with even more technology than before, and promises to be even better to drive thanks to a stiffer chassis and some clever suspension bits and pieces.

There's also an array of new or heavily improved engines available, including new 1.5-litre petrols with fuel-sipping cylinder deactivation tech.

Also new is the eight-speed automatic gearbox, complete here with a Jaguar-style rotary dial for selecting park, reverse and drive. Replacing the previous PowerShift dual-clutch set-ups, this is a proper automatic – and a good one at that.

The Focus gets four engines – two petrols, two diesels – in various states of tune. A 1.0-litre EcoBoost borrowed from the old car is the cheapest, although we'd advise against the entry-level 83bhp version in a car of this size.

We drove the 148bhp 1.5 petrol and it felt just about right: torquey all the way through the rev range, with just enough power to have some fun.

It's refined too – virtually silent most of the time, only generating that typical three-cylinder thrum with heavy use of the throttle.

Information about gradient, cornering



This fourth-generation car is entirely new

speed and driving style is fed to the gearbox's computer, which does a surprisingly good job of working out when to shift down or up on its own, meaning you're rarely left waiting for the right gear to materialise.

The Focus's manual options – two six-speed 'boxes – have been tweaked for improved shift quality and efficiency too.

Aside from its bold design, it was driving dynamics where the original 1998 Focus really stood out from the crowd – so does the fourth generation carry on the tradition? In a word, yes. It's still great fun to drive, and arguably more enjoyable behind the wheel than the car it replaces.

The driving position is spot on, dials are all clear and easy to read, and most trim levels come with plenty of seat adjustability (for the driver at least).

Front and rear visibility is on a par with rivals', and the Focus is easy enough to



There's an array of new or heavily improved engines, including new 1.5-litre petrols with fuel-sipping cylinder deactivation tech

park without the use of any electronic aids. That said, parking sensors are included on Titanium trim and above, while Ford's newly improved Active Park Assist system is even easier to use than before: provided your Focus has the eight-speed automatic, it'll now accelerate and brake as well as steer itself into a space.

Its wheelbase has been increased to allow for extra rear legroom, and the dashboard is now less deep and sculpted in such a way

that the interior feels airier and more spacious. Rear passengers get plenty of legroom even in hatchback models, although taller passengers could feel the squeeze on headroom – particularly when the panoramic sunroof option is fitted.

However, if practicality is a priority, the estate version has you covered. With the rear seats in place it'll now take loads that are 43mm higher and 25mm longer than before, while folding them flat – now at the pull of a switch – gives

a load capacity of 1,650 litres. That's not quite as spacious as the cavernous Skoda Octavia estate, but it does beat the similarly sized Vauxhall Astra Sports Tourer by 20 litres or so. Surprise surprise, the new Focus is – from the driver's seat at least – probably the best car in its segment once again.

There are rivals with posher interiors, cheaper price tags or longer warranties, but as an overall package the Focus is still the one to beat.

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Ford's Fiesta getting a taste of rural France

The long road to Le Mans in the latest Ford Fiesta ST-Line

By Jon Reay

As bucket-list road trips go, I think it's fair to say that not many people would have 'drive through northern France' up there. I'm as guilty as anyone for this – as far as I've been concerned, anything between Calais and Paris exists only to be driven past on the way to somewhere prettier, or warmer.

I reckon it's about time someone gave the likes of Picardy and Normandy a chance though, and so it's with this in mind that I find myself 10 miles east of Boulogne.

My destination – eventually – is Le Mans: home of the world famous 24-hour endurance race, and soon to be teeming with tens of thousands of fans that make the trek every year. A surprising majority of those are Brits.

More surprising still is the sheer diversity of the cars they've chosen for the trip. Anything from 1960s Lotuses and Triumphs to brand new Ferraris and Lamborghinis.

As for me, I've chosen something more down to earth: Ford's latest Fiesta. My reasoning is simple: I want to see how Britain's best-selling car holds up to a road trip of this magnitude. Anyway, back to my route. I've thrown caution to the wind and ticked the 'avoid toll roads' option on the Fiesta's navigation – hoping that I'd end up seeing a bit more 'real France' on my route.

So far, the plan is working: I've not seen a British



The Fiesta loved the rural roads of northern France

numberplate since Calais, and the surroundings aren't bad. Pretty stone-built gîtes, a boulangerie straight from the front of a French text book. I'm suddenly aware of how out of place my ST-Line and its Southend-on-Sea bodykit must seem.

Still, I think it looks pretty good – there are just enough sporty bits without appearing like a total ST wannabe. It's much better proportioned than the last Fiesta too: more squat and purposeful than before, and now without the look of a tall car on tiny alloys.

Before too long I'm back in open country – and I mean open. When you live in the UK drive for an hour in even the most rural of areas and, eventually, you'll find a retail park, or a new housing development, or a National Trust castle with adjoining tea room.

Clearly the people of this particular bit of France didn't get that memo. After mile upon mile of wheat fields interrupted only by the occasional grain silo, I begin to feel like I'm not in France at all, but some agricultural mid-western US state. I pull in when I spot a motel – complete with a fighter jet, of all things. For all that the French like to pretend they hate the US of A, there's an awful lot of Americana floating around in their countryside...

Back on the road again, it seems like days before I'm even half way to Le Mans. Yet more wheat fields, yet more 80km/h roads. Thankfully the Fiesta is proving to be an excellent companion, even on these snore-inducing stretches of tarmac.

The ST-Line's body-hugging sports seats are surprisingly supportive, and despite the optional 18-inch alloys of our car, it rides well too.

It's the Fiesta's optional B&O play sound system that's really keeping me sane, though. A £350 option on our car, it's well worth the extra cash and sounds far better than the stereo in a Ford Fiesta has any right to.

With an hour to go, France finally delivers a set of curves where I can really stretch the Fiesta's legs. A road closure forces me onto the equivalent of a British B-road and, now a little impatient for dinner and bed, I give the ST-Line all it's got to try and make up some time.

Thankfully, the Fiesta doesn't disappoint. It might be the plushiest to date, but on roads like this it's still an absolute hoot with its quick, accurate steering and nimble chassis.

It's not long before the city of Le Mans is finally in sight, resplendent in banners and signs for the race that's due to start in just a few hours' time.

With that, I tuck the ST-Line up for a well-deserved rest in the hotel car park.

Over the last few hundred miles it's proved itself as a surprisingly capable road trip steed – and frankly, I can't think of a better small car for the job.

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Big-selling crossover now has range-topping diesel hybrid

By Sharon Walters

Kia has revealed full pricing and specification details for its updated Sportage.

The family crossover is the South Korean manufacturer's best-selling model in the UK and features key upgrades, including an updated infotainment system and a selection of new active driver aids to boost safety.

The big-ticket item, however, is the addition of a hybrid powertrain. Denoted by the moniker 'EcoDynamics+' it's an extension of the existing 2.0-litre CRDi diesel. Rather than converting it into a full-series hybrid, however, Kia's strapped on a 48-volt mild-hybrid booster system instead. It says the new powertrain produces a range-topping 182bhp, but hasn't revealed fuel economy or CO2 emissions figures yet.

With the addition of the 48V mild-hybrid system, Kia and sister brand Hyundai will be the first manufacturers to offer a vehicle line-up including combustion, mild hybrid, series hybrid, plug-in hybrid and fully electric powertrains.

There are four other engines on offer – two petrol and two diesel.

The entry-level is a naturally aspirated 1.6-litre petrol, which produces 130bhp and can return 39.8mpg.



Standard specification includes Apple CarPlay

For those after more performance, there's a turbocharged 1.6-litre – the T-GDI – which produces 174bhp and returns a maximum of 37.2mpg.

Most buyers are likely to opt for one of two CRDi diesels offering either 114bhp or 134bhp and returning 57.6mpg and 55.4mpg respectively. Six-speed manual and seven-speed automatic gearboxes are available across most of the spectrum, with range-topping 48V hybrid models offered with an eight-speed auto.

Trim levels are slightly more complex than Kia's usual numerical system. The range kicks off with the '1' trim, which offers 16-inch alloy wheels, LED daytime running lights, all-round electric windows, air con plus Apple CarPlay and Android Auto connectivity. Prices start from £20,305.

Step up to '2' specification and you gain satellite navigation, 17-inch alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, reversing sensors and dual-zone climate control. This grade is priced from £22,405.

The range then skips '3' and moves on to 'Edition 25', celebrating 25 years of the Sportage. It's paired exclusively with the base petrol engine and costs from £25,655, including leather inserts to the upholstery, keyless entry, a premium JBL sound system, eight-inch infotainment display and metallic paint.

The '4' grade is priced from £27,260. It misses out on the base engine but offers a panoramic sunroof, electrically adjustable front seats, gloss-black dash inserts and LED head- and tail-lights.

Moving the Sportage in a different direction are GT-Line and GT-Line S trims, which add dynamic exterior and interior styling.

Nineteen-inch alloy wheels feature alongside LED rear lights, black leather upholstery and a sports steering wheel. 'S' models add adaptive cruise control, ventilated front seats and a smart power tailgate, among others. They're priced from £25,510 and £31,645 respectively.

The hybrid powertrain is only available in top-spec '4' and GT-Line S trims, with a starting price of £32,545.



The latest Sportage features a number of key upgrades

The Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

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Deaths

BRADLEY

Jennifer Anne

Passed away at County Hospital on July 21, 2018, aged 68 years.

Jennifer will be sadly missed by all her loving Family.

Funeral Service to be held at Stafford Crematorium on Wednesday, August 8, at 3pm.

Family flowers only.

Donations will be gratefully accepted for St Giles Hospice.

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Deaths

KENDRICK

David Alfred

Passed away suddenly at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital on July 16, 2018, aged 66 years. He was a much loved Husband, Dad and Grandad and will be missed dearly by all his Family and Friends. The Funeral Service will take place on Thursday, August 9, 2018, 10.30am at St Marks Church Great Wyrley followed by a Burial at Great Wyrley Cemetery.

You are invited to join the Family afterwards at 1Harrisons Working Men's Club.

All flowers welcome or Donations, if so desired to Queen Elizabeth Stroke Unit.

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KENDRICK

David Alfred

Those special memories of you will always bring a smile, if only I could have you back for just a little while, then we could sit and talk again just like we used to do, you always meant so very much and always will do too.

I want to tell you something so there won't be any doubt, you're so wonderful to think of but so hard to be without.

Brokenhearted Wife Sheila.

X X

NUTTING

Chris

Of Hednesford, passed away suddenly on July 19, 2018, aged 71 years.

He will be greatly missed by all Family and Friends.

Funeral Service will take place at Stafford Crematorium, on Friday, August 10, at 11am.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Birmingham Children's Hospital.

All inquiries to

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Brian

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Loving Wife Sheila, Sons and Daughters - in-Law, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.

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★ **WEDNESDAY** ★
BEST BOOTSALE
Pouk Lane,
Springhill, Muckley Corner,
WS14 0ET
★ **07890 267 041** ★

Caravans/ Motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym
Par 3 golf, bowls, why go further?
www.bcpark.co.uk 01584 823433

HOLIDAY HOMES for sale on quiet
park nr Tenbury Wells from £12K.
c/h, d/g/z, 2b. Call 01568 750665.

Caravan Holiday home for sale
2010 swift Moselle £24,495
2 beds, bright open plan, well looked after,
family shower room plus separate en-suite
Cassidy view 5x Caravan Holiday Home Park
- Ultimate Coastal retreat
Minutes from glorious sandy beaches &
world famous golf Course and
Historic Harlech Castle.
Call Sue or Richard 01766 780328
www.castleviewpark.co.uk

holidays

Caravan Holidays

SEA SIDE SOMERSET HOLIDAY
caravans to let, all overlook the sea.
Hail price OAP offer. 01984631781
www.helwellbay.com

TOWYN N.WALES, Caravans to let,
small site, good rates, all facilities
01745 334837 or 07766 306230.

Caravan Parks

AWARD WINNING Holiday Park on
Staffordshire/Shropshire Border.
New & Used static caravans for
sale. Self-Catering Lodge breaks
available. Call: 01902 851302
www.oaklandholidaypark.co.uk

Caravan Sales

Lovely 6-berth Caravan



Located close to the seaside on
family run Beverley Holidays in
Paignton with free use of fantastic
facilities including show-stopping
entertainment, heated indoor and
outdoor swimming pools.
22,995 including 2018 pitch fees
Call 07543 220519 or visit
www.beverleyholidayhomes.co.uk

Devon

PAIGNTON
The Kingswinford
Limited
Availability
for July & August
Ring for
available dates
FAMILY ROOMS AVAILABLE
CHILD DISCOUNTS
All rooms en suite
100 yards to beach and pier
Contractors Welcome
01803 558358
www.kingswinfordhotel.com

Self Catering Holidays

BURNHAM-ON-SEA
Self Catering Holiday
Apartments
Disabled Facilities
Pet Friendly
01278 794111
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

Travel Abroad

READERS ARE REMINDED
to check with any Advertisers
that their holiday costs are fully
covered by a recognised bond or
insurance scheme.

mind, body & soul

Massage

THE TANNING ROOMS
Full body massage 30 mins £22,
40 mins £27, 1 hour £37
SHOWER FACILITIES
Call: 01902 782960

Music Shop

ELVIS PRESLEY First radio broad-
cast on CD £60.
07828 664983.

Sports & Leisure

Free Ads

IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY
To sell items upto £250.
Online at
bookanad.
expressandstar.co.uk

what's on

Antique & Collectors Market

ANTIQUA/COLLECTORS FAIR
Kinner Comm Centre, Sun 5th
August and 2nd Sept EST 1979
Waverley, Next Book Fair Sun 19th
Aug. Refreshments. 0121 550 4361

Markets

STOURBRIDGE
CAR BOOT
At Stourbridge
Rugby Club
Open every Wednesday
from 16th May
07957 399964

BUY
LOCAL
SELL
LOCAL
01902 317878
Classified Ads

3 Home & Services

Furniture

Katharine House Hospice
We can turn your quality used
furniture into 1st class care for
patients at Katharine House
Call us now on
01543 466885
for details or to arrange a
FREE collection

MIDI SLEEPER Single bunk bed with
mattress, two drawers, pull out table,
white. Good condition. £100. 01543
325515 / 07922 088152.

TWO, TWO Seater sofas, brown
leather recliners, £70 each, good
quality. Small lamp table, glass top.
£10. 01922 411472.

Antiques

Louis Taylor
Antique valuations first
Wednesday of every month, 10am - 2pm
Ancient High House Museum, Stafford, ST16 2JA
01782 638100

ANTIQUES WANTED
Furniture, Clocks, China, Medals, Coins,
Old wind-up Wrist and Pocket Watches
Paintings, Gold/Silver/Costume Jewellery
CHASE ANTIQUES
(Over 40 Years Trading)
01543 572367 07831 818024

In Your Garden

C B SHEDS & FENCING
We supply & fit. Free quotes.
Call: 01922 720270
We also supply sleepers and decking

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!



"I am very happy
with my Classified
Advertising Campaign
both in print and
online."
Simon - Ranton
Building Supplies

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Items For Sale

ADVERTISERS ARE
REMINDING
That the Business
Advertisements (Disclosure)
Order of 1977 requires that
advertisements must clearly
differentiate between Private
and Trade.

ASH RECLAMATION new and
used building materials, upvc doors
and windows 01543 453222.

CORRUGATED GALVANISED
Sheets. New, £8 can deliver. Also
box profile and PVC/polycarb.
David Broxton on 07834 499558.

ELECTRIC ARMCHAIR
Lifts you up and down,
excellent condition £100.
Electric single bed, nearly new
£100.
Under counter freezer £40.
07399 664451.

✓ **A GENUINE** ✓
LADY BUYER
PAYS TOP CASH ON ANY
TYPE OF GOLD
Any type of gold wanted, e.g 9 carat
gold. Jewellery from £300+ per oz.
Sovereigns £200+ each
Any amount collected. Gold coins,
silver, all medals, bank notes, old
brassware, old cameras, oriental items,
anything old, interesting or collectable
Call Pauline on
01922 495066
or 07971 783206 ✓

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertise-
ment today? We would respect-
fully remind advertisers that it is
their responsibility to inform the
publishers of any mistakes or in-
accuracies on the first day of publica-
tion.

Items Wanted

A BEST CASH PRICE PAID
for antiques, vintage furniture,
leather-winged arm chairs &
chesterfield settees.
01902 454144 or
0121 5263375

CASH PAID NOW!
WANTED TOOLS
Hand Tools, Anything considered
01543 452 491
07539 340307

READERS ARE ADVISED to
carefully consider all of their options
before agreeing to the sale of any
of their items.

Loans

READERS ARE REMINDING
that they may require profes-
sional advice before entering into
obligations.

specialists at your service

Aerials

A AERIAL & SKY
SPECIALIST
Digital Aerials Fitted
Sky & CCTV Cameras
Free Quotes. 7 days
07850 330251

AA DIGITAL
AERIALS
AERIALS FITTED FROM £79.99
01902 858191 • 01384 429166
01543 439095 • 01922 716029

A A CLEAR
VISION AERIALS
Freeview, FreeSat, Sky, CCTV
Aerials from £79
Dishes from £79
OAP DISCOUNT
01902 752036

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!



"I am very pleased
with the response
I get from
my Classified
Advertising Contract"

Steve -
AA Digital Aerials

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

Alarms/Security

PREMIER
ALARMS
Supplied and Fitted £249
Servicing and Repairs
12 Months Warranty
All areas covered
All quotes beaten!
Call: 0121 601 9791

Building Supplies

RECLAIMED BRICKS, Tiles,
Slates, Oakbeams, Flooring, York
Stone, Cawarden 01889 574066.
sales@cawardenreclaim.co.uk

Domestic Repairs & Services

SAME DAY LOW
COST REPAIRS
Washing Machines,
Tumble Dryers, Electric Cookers
12 MONTHS GUARANTEE
CALL ROY **07850 355552**

Double Glazing Repairs

S.P.S replace misted glass, locks,
hinges, windows, doors, guaran-
teed. OAP discount. 07983 704889

Driveways & Patios

TW LANDSCAPES
Driveway Restoration
Specialists
Cleaning & Sealing, Patios,
Driveways, Decorative Gravel Drives
All aspects of Landscaping,
Fencing, Patios, Walls
New Block Paving & Tarmac Drives
WE WILL NOT BE BEATEN ON PRICE
Free no obligation quotation
call: 01785 878574
or 07845 483443

P.W. DRIVEWAYS
The Block Paving Specialists.
Pavements, Driveways, Pathways,
Landscaping & more.
Special Offer £50/PSM
We will beat any like for like
written quote
Free Quotes & Advice
01785 609076
(Based in Stafford)

A&S CONTRACTING
SERVICES LIMITED
Tarmacadam & Block Paving Specialists.
Pavements, Driveways, Landscaping
Over 30 years experience
Free Quotes 01902 736051
or 07854 919937

External Rendering /Insulation

RENDER OR INSULATION
20 year insurance backed guaran-
tee. Free Quotes 01902 495 699
www.ecotexcontracts.co.uk

Fencing

BUSHBURY FENCING
FITTING
SPECIALISTS
FREE QUOTES
01902 827000
07816 863810

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!



"I am extremely happy with
the service I get from my
Express & Star Classified Sales
Representatives and would
recommend them to anyone! They
have done a very professional job
with my website so I get online
enquiries as well now."

Michael-
Portway Fencing

For great business
results call
01902 319 191

Classified Ads

Brought to you by **Express & Star**

PORTWAY FENCING
SPECIAL OFFER
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,
gravel boards **£795**
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656
Mon - Fri 9am - 4.30pm
Sat 9am - 12noon
83 Portway Rd, W'bury
DELIVERY AVAILABLE
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

GARDEN KINGS
All Garden work and maintenance,
Fencing, Tree Cutting,
Turfing and much more
Call: Steve for free quote
07774449900 / 01902 238653

Gardening Services

JC'S LAWN CARE
GRASS CUTTING & FENCING
Hedges overgrown gardens
Regular and one off cuts
07879 418350

Landywood Tree & Landscaping Services
All garden work, tree felling/topping,
pruning, hedges trimmed, turf,
patios, fencing, block-paving etc.
www.landywoodlandscaping.co.uk
01922 898 710 / 07973 177 976

Gas Fitting

READERS ARE ADVISED
To check that anyone
carrying out any Gas work
is Gas Safe Registered.

It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
gas work in the UK without
being on the Gas Safe Register.

Handyman Services

HANDY MAN - All trades, washing
machines, outside taps, showers,
plumbing, heating, gutter cleaning.
Free quotes call: 07850 559315.

House Clearances

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid
for house clearances and bereave-
ments. Also removals undertaken.
07852 172641 / 07710 360327 /
01902 534021

ALL ROUND
CLEARANCE
Professional family run business
House clearances full or part,
also garages, sheds etc.
Telephone Kev
07794 912844

Kitchen Fitters

THE KITCHEN
FITTER
• Over 20 years' experience in kitchen
fitting & project managing.
• Specialist in fitting all retail kitchens.
• Very competitive price.
• Quick quotes over the
phone can be given if preferred.
• Supply now available!

CONTACT MATT
ON 07881 654 757
or 01543 373 233

Oven Cleaning

OVEN CLEANING
SERVICE
Ovens, double ovens, grills, hobs,
ranges and agas. All cleaned to a
professional standard.
S&J Oven wizardz
01785 612517

Painters/ Decorators

LADY PAINTER & DECORATOR
City and guild qualified, local, reli-
able, affordable. 07916 399490.

Plans Prepared

ADAM DESIGN. Building Plans.
Drawn and submitted to council.
Tel: 01902 620200 / 07841 654037.
Email: adamdesign@sky.com

Plastering

MINT PLASTERING
For the very best in plastering and rendering,
full rooms inc materials from 110. Halls,
stairs and landings from 200
30 years experience.
Free quotes. All work guaranteed
01543 327130 / 07519 694516

Plumbing & Heating

TAD PLUMBING & HEATING
For all your plumbing needs.
30 years experience
24 HOUR CALL OUT, NO FEE!
Call Trevor on **07791 319397**
www.tadplumbingandheatingwolverhampton.co.uk

Removals

CALL DEAN NOW: For all your
Removal needs. 07429 453209/
01902 830870 / 01384 940260.

KT HOUSE REMOVALS
13 years experience.
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.
Free Quotes - Call Ric on:
07771 727119

KC REMOVALS We beat any quote,
full or part loads, all areas. Anything
considered. Call on 07867 862227.

t.v. / home entertainment

Service

AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST
Any TV Repairs. Digital aerials, sky,
CCTV cameras. TV wall mounts and
TV set ups. 07850 330251.

TRUST CLASSIFIEDS!



"TV Link are really
pleased with their
response from their
Classified Campaign"

Bill - TV Link

For great business
results call
01902 319 191
Classified Ads
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

4 Pets & Animals

Equestrian Corner

ALL READERS are advised to
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies
have the required Passport infor-
mation, this is a legal requirement.

Guns & Dogs

NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
Advertisers must ensure that they meet all necessary legal requirements for owning and using guns.

Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.
2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.
3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree. Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

Properties Wanted

Yes! HOMEBUYERS

We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
Fast Sale? Yes! Any Location? Yes!
No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

FREE, GUARANTEED, instant offer today!

Call **01543 547 807**



or text "Cash" to 66777
yeshomebuyers.com

Home Cash Buyer
Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££
Houses / Land Required

We also buy Commercial Property
Ring Paul 24/7 Local **07870 341 089**
Sandwell area: Call **0121 696 4154**
Walsall & Cannock area: Call **01922 432049**
Wolverhampton: Call **01902 489901**
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

7 Jobs

Courses

ABK SECURITY SERVICES LIMITED
We provide Training in:
• First Aid / Health & Safety • Safe Moving & Handling • Security (SAS)
Call **01299 879 015**
Email enquiries@abktraining.co.uk www.abksecurity.com

Employment Wanted

WORK WANTED FOR 7.5 TONNE DRIVER
Full or part time, very experienced, CPC etc. Any driving considered. Clean licence. Transit to 7.5T. Any work at all. **01922 516528.**

Part Time - General

GARDENER Do you have real ability enough to properly maintain and develop a nice cottage garden in Cannock. This means truthful knowledge of the job and all year round skill and willingness. Part time. Phone for interview 07852 153130 evenings.

8 Motoring

Cars Over £1500

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

LOW MILEAGE

RENAULT SCENIC
2009, 1.5 diesel, new cam belt, low mileage.
Very clean Family car.
Bargain **£2,450**
07742 707464



VW EOS SPORT TDI
2006. With private number plate.
Finished in black.
Two former keepers.
FSH. Long MoT.
Excellent condition.
£2,995.
0796 3464780.

Cars Under £1500

MUST BE SEEN

TOYOTA RAV 4
3 door.
1997.
90,000 miles only.
MoT to end January 2019.
Many new parts.
£925.
07711 151713.

MUST BE SEEN

VAUXHALL MARIVA DESIGN 1.6XP
57 reg. Bright silver.
MoT March. Factory body kit.
Alloys, twin sunroofs. CD.
Front fogs.
Runs and drives as it should.
£1,275 ono.
07415 013857.

BARGAIN

VAUXHALL VECTRA EXCLUSIVE
2008, 5dr hatchback, 1.8, petrol, all refinements, PAS, EW, aircon etc, 1 year MoT, silver, nice condition.
£1,075 ono
0121 328 1405 / 07980 820505.

Motorbikes

ALL BIKES WANTED Anything considered. Pristine, non runners, barn finds, unfinished projects Highways 07971 793661 or 01902 773608.

Scrap Vehicles

mainline Salvage & Recovery
• **SCRAP CARS WANTED**
• **FREE COLLECTION**
• **TOP PRICES PAID**
Fully Licensed • C.O.D. Issued
No Fines • No Comebacks
1000's of vehicle parts in stock
01902 871111 • 07772 240819
07895 346811
www.mainlinesalvage.co.uk

MCB
TOP PRICES PAID FOR ALL SCRAP CARS, VANS, BIKES, CLASSICS
Tel: 01902 408176
1000's of parts available at all times
MONMORE RD, WV1 2TZ
OUR ADVERTISERS are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

spares & accessories

Number Plates

WOLVES NUMBER PLATE FOR SALE

WSLFS
The only one.

For more information please contact:

07986 653388

MOT's

MOTs ONLY £29.50
formula one autocentres
CANNOCK WS11 OBN
01543 50 20 00
F1AUTOCENTRES.COM

9 Local Information

Public Notices

Public Notices

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to Marie Hogg on **01902 319694** or email **marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk** (remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC COLLIERY ROAD, RUGELEY

Notice is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council on 31 July 2018 made an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding along Colliery Road, Rugeley from its junction with Coalpit Lane to its junction with Startley Lane. For more information regarding access arrangements, timings and diversion routes please visit <https://roadworks.org?tm=105721729>.

The Order will come into operation on 6 August 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date. It is anticipated the works will be completed by 10 August 2018. The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the new water connection works undertaken by South Staffordshire Water, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 DIVERSION OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC A0034 WALSALL ROAD, CANNOCK

Notice is hereby given that Staffordshire County Council intend not less than seven days from the date of this notice to make an Order the effect of which is to prohibit any vehicle from proceeding along A0034 Walsall Road, Cannock from the roundabout junction with A5, A460 to the back of Bridge Court. For more information regarding access arrangements, timings and diversion routes please visit <https://roadworks.org?tm=105865468>. The Order will come into operation on 20 August 2018 and the said works will commence on or as near as practicable to that date taking place between the hours of 22:00 and 06:00, no works to be undertaken over weekends or bank holidays. It is anticipated the works will be completed by 1 September 2018. The Order will remain in force for a period of 18 months or until the vegetation removal and brickwork repairs to the railway bridge works, which it is proposed to carry out on or near the road have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

BARBARA ELIZABETH JOYCE CUNNINGHAM Deceased

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the deceased, late of 33 Norton Grange, Norton Canes, Cannock, WS11 9QZ, who died on 26/05/2018, must send written particulars to the address below by 03/10/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests notified.

Hugh James Solicitors
Hedge House, 114-116 St. Mary Street, Cardiff, CF10 1DY Ref: CUN153/1

HILDA ALICE CLINTON (formerly known as WOOTTON formerly known as HELER) (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of Ashcroft Hollow Care Home 18a Stafford Road Huntington Cannock Staffordshire WS12 4PD, who died on 07/06/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 12/10/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

ANSONS SOLICITORS
Commerce House Ridings Park Eastern Way Cannock Staffordshire WS11 7FS

ROGER DOUGLAS ASTON (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 anyone having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 198 Bridge Cross Road Buntwood Staffordshire WS2 2BZ, who died on 01/05/2018, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 12/10/2018, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.

JENNINGS PERKS LIMITED
3 High Street Aldridge Walsall West Midlands WS9 8LX

THE COUNCIL IS TO CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING PLANNING PROPOSALS

Case Officer - Audrey Lewis
Location: The Academy Early Years Childcare, Main Road, Brereton, RUGELEY
CH/18/261 Demolition of existing public house and associated buildings and the erection of a replacement office building with mixed D1/B1 use (re-submission of planning application: CH/17/237)

Case Officer - Nigel Gould
Location: 1, Regency Court, Rugeley, WS15 1PE
CH/18/266 Construction of 2 bedroom chalet bungalow

All applications may be inspected electronically at the Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock.

Applications relating to Rugeley and Brereton may also be inspected by paper file at the Rugeley Area Housing Office, Anson Street, Rugeley. The Council has published a Service Charter for publicity and information about planning applications and a Code of Conduct for the Planning Process both of which are obtainable from Council Offices free of charge.

If you wish to make comments or representations about any of the above proposals you should do so in writing to the Planning Services Manager, Civic Centre, Beecroft Road, Cannock, WS11 1BG or by emailing to developmentcontrol@cannockchasedc.gov.uk by 23/08/2018. Please include a daytime telephone number in your reply and quote the appropriate reference when calling or writing.

How we use your information: We will publish your information on our website to enable other agencies such as statutory and non-statutory consultees and individuals interested in viewing and/or commenting on the application. We will redact signatures and private telephone numbers before publishing online and can remove your email address on request. For those customers commenting on planning applications we do need a postal address to enable fair consideration of comments. Cannock Chase District Council is the data controller. You can find information about how we handle your personal information by visiting www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/privacy/notice.

tel **01543 462621**

www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk

10 Personals

Personal

THE GREENHOUSE SPA

For gay/bisexual men.
Jaccuzzi and restrooms on site.
TV's & ladyboys welcome
Friday evenings. Open 7 days pw.
2 mins J9 / J10 M6.
Friday & Saturday Disco Room Open
Free Parking
0121 5686126
www.gay-sauna.com

BRITISH BORN INDIAN MAN

Seeking white or Indian female for holidays, pubs, nights in/out. Genuine replies only please. All replies will be answered.

Box Number P21285 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

NICE LOOKING GENUINE LADY

Young 50's, likes DIY, cooking, live bands, coats and camp fires, historical towns, cosy nights in, animal lover, well brought up, have all the possessions in life I've worked for, seeks similar genuine, single, kind male for friendship and possible long LTR.

Box Number P21287 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

SINGLE GENTLEMAN

5FT 5INS
WLTM genuine lady 50 - 75 years for Friendship, possible Relationship.

Photo appreciated and returned.
Box Number P20912 , Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
Classified Ads

BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO

1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING
Where we find out about you!
2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING
The important bit.
3. AUDIO PRODUCTION
Music or voice over?
4. POST PRODUCTION
Where the finishing touches happen.
5. VIDEO ADVERTISING
Want even more exposure?

CALL 01902 319730

Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising



MNA Digital

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL
01902 317878
Classified Ads



Local Specialists

43

The Chronicle Thursday, August 2, 2018

Aerials

RUGELEY AERIALS & SATELLITE SYSTEMS

CCTV-CAT 5, AERIALS INSTALLED, SKY/FREESAT BOXES AND DISHES SUPPLIED AND FITTED

SURROUND SOUND • PLASMA/LCD TV'S INSTALLED AND WALL MOUNTED • MOTORISED SATELLITE SYSTEMS AND EUROPEAN STATIONS

ESTABLISHED SINCE 1960

CONTACT US FOR SERVICE, RELIABILITY AND COST

The next generation Sky Q boxes available now

For all NEW customers, Terms & conditions apply



C352



A BUSINESS BUILT ON RECOMMENDATION

TEL: RUGELEY 01889 585481



- Free estimate and call out
- Digital aerial & satellite installations
- HDMI distribution • WiFi & internet points
- Internet smart TV points
- TV wall installations & bespoke cabling
- Home cinema & audio systems

www.aerialav.co.uk Email: Lee@aerialav.co.uk
READ OUR REVIEWS ON BEST OF CANNOCK

Cannock Aerials & Satellite

Your local digital aerial specialists serving Cannock and the surrounding areas since 1999



Aerials upgraded/installed/repared - extra viewing points to any room - TV/Digital box tuning svs - same day service - no call out fee - work guaranteed and meter tested - competitive prices for quality products and services

The original and only Cannock Aerials... beware of rogue traders
Call Phil on 01543 50 62 64 Mobile 07984 744154

BUY LOCAL SELL LOCAL

01902 317878



ClassifiedAds

Carpentry

Simply Doors Walsall

Internal & External Door Suppliers & Fitters



6 internal pre-finished doors fully fitted for £450 complete with handles

External UPVC and composite doors also available

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM

Unit 44, Pleck Road, Walsall WS2 9XX

01922 623151 or 07810 122133

www.simplydoorswalsall.co.uk

Opening Hours
Mon-Fri 10am - 5pm
Sat 10am - 2pm

Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning

J P Cleaning

Carpets, Upholstery, Curtains, Leather

THIS MONTHS SPECIAL OFFERS

	NORMAL PRICE	SPECIAL PRICE
Upholstery		
Chair	£20	£14
2 seater sofa	£32	£21
3 seater sofa	£40	£28

	NORMAL PRICE	SPECIAL PRICE
Carpets		
12ft x 15ft	£30	£20
Lounge 12ft x 21ft	£42	£30
Stairs and Landing	£40	£28
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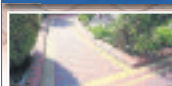
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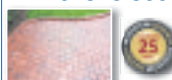
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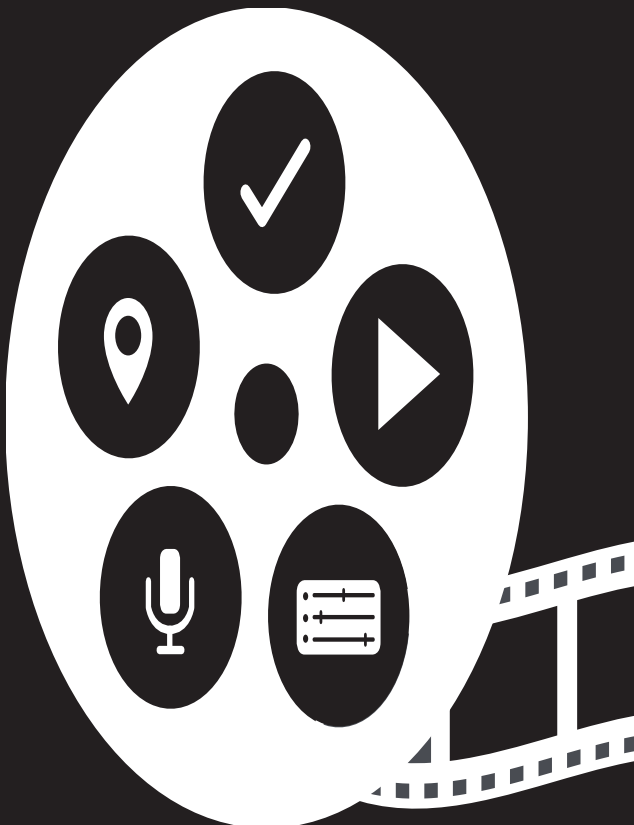
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Bilbao bound Gavin's hometown warm-up

FRANKIE Gavin warms up for his European Welterweight Title fight later this year with a six round contest in his home city in September.

The 32-year-old Birmingham boxer takes on Kerman Lejarraga in the Spaniard's back yard of Bilbao on November 17. But as Gavin, the former Commonwealth and British Champion, steps up camp, he will take part in a warm-up bout at the Holiday Inn, Smallbrook Queensway, on September 16. Gavin said: "Camp is well under way and I'm determined. Lejarraga is my main focus but it's important to get back in the ring, blow off a few cobwebs and make a statement. November will soon come round and I'm going to Bilbao to bring the European Title home."

The four-fight dinner show, 'Bilbao Bound' will also feature Gavin's stablemate Brad 'Bosh' Thomas, Central Area Heavyweight Champion, Kash Ali, and Walsall super welterweight, Levi Ferguson.

Tickets are £65 to include a two-course Sunday lunch or £35 standard unreserved. Call 07900 741 617

Davis takes on role of managing misfits

WOLVES have hired ex-Crewe boss Steve Davis to manage their fringe players as they look to find them deals away from the club.

Dominic Iorfa, Jordan Graham, Phil Ofose-Ayeh, Michal Zyro and Ethan Ebanks-Landell are training separately from the first team in a 'group three' section at Compton Park.

Wolves are working to, ideally, find permanent moves for the players. Loan moves look the more likely scenarios for most of the group, which also contains Paul Glendon, Joe Mason, Connor Ronan and Sylvain Deslandes as well as some of the older under-23 players.

Boyhood Wolves fan Davis came close to landing the top job at Molineux back in 2013 when he was interviewed for the then-vacant head coach role after Dean Saunders was sacked. Davis was at one point odds-on favourite to get the job but missed out to Kenny Jackett.

It's understood that he is working full-time at Compton Park overseeing the group having been handed a temporary contract.

New boss kicks off Casuals campaign

WOLVERHAMPTON Casuals boss Dean Gill hopes to hit the ground running when the West Midlands League season kicks off.

Gill made the switch from Wednesfield at the end of the last campaign and the first batch of Premier Division fixtures have handed his new charges an opening-day clash at home to Wellington. After a trip to Wem, a visit to Tividale and a home clash with his former charges follow.

Gill said: "We are pleased with the opening set of fixtures. We start with a home game which is always good and hopefully we can get a good start. If we can get a decent start I would like to see us challenging in the top six."

Last season's Premier Division runners-up Tividale kick-off at Smethwick Rangers and, as well as the clash with Casuals, meet Black Country Rangers in the opening month. Tivi boss Dave King said: "It's a tough opening month, there is no doubt about that."

Black Country Rangers, fourth last season, start at Bilston Town Community.



Allen and daughter Dominique, a Great Britain and England player



Always popular with the fans

Ace Allen has lived his life through basketball

SPORTING FEATURE

By James Driver-Fisher

"It was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports"

PLAYING in front of 5,000 fans, winning two British Basketball League play-off titles and earning five England caps for good measure.

For someone who didn't start playing basketball until his teenage years – because he was embarrassed about his height – Clive Allen enjoyed a truly stellar career.

Growing up in the West Midlands, Allen began his sporting life playing football and trying to blend in with his classmates. But his talent would eventually help him win a scholarship in America, leading to a 15-year career with the Birmingham Bullets when the sport was really rocking in the region.

"When I was at school I hated being tall and I didn't want to be involved in anything that showed that," said Allen. "At Hillcrest School, in Netherton, there weren't too many black people and I didn't want to stand out any more, so I didn't start playing basketball until I left."

"Mike Landell, who was a Great Britain basketball player from Dudley, was the person who got me into the sport. He encouraged me to go for my first trial when I was about 16 to 17."

Redundant

"But Dave Fisher, who was the coach at the time, said I wasn't good enough for the senior squad and I was also too old for the under-17s. I was told to come back in about a year."

Allen is now head coach at West Bromwich Albion Basketball Academy, which comes under the Sporting Albion umbrella and is directly linked with the football team. The 56-year-old has eaten, lived and breathed basketball since deciding to take the sport seriously and has come a long way from working in a factory.

"I was working at Grazebrook Foundries in Dudley, but was made redundant," he said. "I started getting back into sport again and it was while playing football at the Aston Villa Leisure Centre I was asked by someone to switch sports. I started playing in the Sandwell Central League for Sandwell Basketball Club. "I was playing in the Central League when the

coach from Bullets saw me and took me down for another trial – and then offered me a contract. The first season I probably played, what felt like, five minutes, but every time I came on the crowd loved it because of the effort and hustle I put in."

Allen's efforts eventually saw him land a scholarship to play at Northwest Nazarene University, in Idaho, which was a Christian College. He also studied to become a social worker. But his American adventure was cut short after his wife fell pregnant with his daughter, Dominique, who herself is now a Great Britain and England international.

"My wife wanted our baby to be born in the UK so we came back from US a little early," said Allen. "I started playing for the Bullets again and playing in America was such a learning curve and it had transformed my game. At the time, in BBL, a lot of British players sat on the bench because it was taken over by Americans, like Premiership football today really. "But we had a really strong team in the 90s, with Nigel Lloyd, Fab Flournoy, Tony Dorsey, Tony Simms and Reggie Kirk. But one of the main things was we always had a really good relationship with each other and also the fans."

Allen – who enjoyed two stints with the Bullets, from 1985-87 and then 1988-2001 – first won the BBL play-off finals in 1995/96, but said the second title in 1997/98, also at Wembley Arena, was the pinnacle of his playing career. A year later, however, the squad was left with just five senior players. But the lack of resources once again made the team a stronger unit.

Winning the finals in 1998 was my greatest moment but a few years later, when it didn't work out with some of the American players, it just left of five of us. That was Lloyd, Kirk, Simms, Flournoy and myself. The Bullets also eventually went full circle because when Australian Harry Wrubleski took over he wanted to take the game from leisure centres and into arenas."

Allen's career was eventually ended due to a condition called neurosarcoidosis, which affected his spine. But once his playing days were over he was able to refocus and become one of the Black Country's most prominent coaches.

After enjoying one last hurrah with the Black Country Bears, winning the title after dropping down a division, he briefly joined Simms as coach at the Aston Athletics basketball team in 2005.

Coaching

He became assistant coach at the Milton Keynes Lions under Lloyd, then general manager for the Birmingham Panthers, again under Lloyd, during their only season, from 2007/08. But a conversation with Jamie Bunch, sporting director of the Albion Foundation in 2009, that really shaped his coaching career.

"I dropped down a division and played for the Black Country Bears – and won a title – but I had been coaching all the way through and launched my own Big Sky Basketball academy."

"I worked with more than 70 schools in one year covering Dudley, Stourbridge and Halesowen."

"Jamie Bunch then got in contact and wanted to follow the Sporting Lisbon way, where there were other teams affiliated with the club. I used to run basketball sessions at Sir Gilbert Cloughton, which would end with a big tournament but they wanted to set up a team and take it more seriously."

"I wanted to push it too and through my connections at the Bullets I met Jamie. We only had two teams when we started at under-16 and under-18. Now we have 12, which goes from under-14s up to the men's, which are now linked with Wolverhampton University. I also coach at Dudley College and Sandwell College too, so there is a bigger network for basketball players."

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Hawks slip after game abandoned

C&R Hawks lost ground at the top of the Birmingham League Division Two when their game at Coventry & NW was abandoned. A winning draw for Walmley takes them eight points clear of Hawks, who had conceded 264-3 before rain forced Saturday's abandonment.

A knock of 45 from Rana Hassan helped Penkridge to 196 all out in the 55th over against Wombourne. The Wombourne innings was cut to 48 overs but they were bowled out for 153 in the 42nd over despite a 50 from Hudson.

Milford Hall had Old Elizabethans stumbling at 68-8, from 32.4 overs, in Division Three when the match was abandoned. Milford's Chris Dean took 7-31 in an unbroken spell of 16.4 overs.

Connor Shingler took 38 as Cannock bowled out Coseley for 171 in the Staffs Clubs Championship. At 8-2 in reply, Faizan Khan (80 not out) and Adam Benton (70) put on 130 and Cannock ended on 173-3 to win by seven wickets.

Whittington had posted 188-5 in 42.1 overs before rain forced the abandonment of their game at Brewood.

Hammerwich reigned in the rain against Bloxwich, winning by nine wickets with a revised target. Thomas Fellows scored 68 in Bloxwich's 179, but Hammerwich needed just 120 for victory. Brian Fisher was 70 not out.

Armitage were on the end of Hyder Rizwan's 218 as Whitmore Reans hit 435-9. But the game was abandoned before the Armitage reply. Burntwood St Matthews were all out for 70, chasing the 134-8 scored by Whitmore Reans 2nds.

Wembley outing as players to join guard of honour

HEATH Hayes FC have been given a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as they are one of eight teams invited to be part of the team parade during the 2018 FA Community Shield on Sunday.

Ahead of the highly anticipated match between two of the country's biggest sides, players from Heath Hayes will form a guard of honour around the Wembley pitch as Emirates FA Cup winners Chelsea prepare to take on reigning Premier League champions Manchester City in front of a capacity crowd.

The Cannock grassroots team were given the opportunity to feature in the parade by local operations consultant David Knight who has supported the club for the past two years as part of McDonald's Club Twinning programme.

The McDonald's Club Twinning programme started in 2008 and has already seen over 1,000 grassroots clubs twinned with McDonald's restaurants. The guard of honour is just one of the many ways in which McDonald's supports accredited grassroots clubs through its community partnership with The FA, helping to raise the standards of the game.

Boxers among medals at tournament



Ryan Wooldridge celebrates his win

GREAT Wyrley Amateur Boxing Club came away with a gold medal and a silver from the three-day East Midlands Box Cup at the weekend.

Jai Sohal, 15, could consider himself unfortunate to be on the wrong end of a split decision against eventual silver medallist Dylan Fitzgerald (One Nation ABC) in the quarter final on Friday.

On Saturday, 17 year old Ryan Wooldridge, in the A 69-75kg class,

guaranteed himself at least a silver when he beat Amin Elgour (Alyesbury), swaying the verdict his way in the judges' eyes.

Sunday saw the first appearance of Daniel Hodson, 17, in the 64-69kg Class B Final.

Up against last year's Class A champion Leon Smith (Workshop), Hodson gave his all, only to just come up short against a class act in Smith who claimed his second title

in succession with a unanimous points decision.

Ryan Wooldridge met the very strong Mohammed Shabaz (Hi-Tech) in his final and proved too classy as he boxed his opponent to a standstill to take gold in a very polished performance.

Pictured are, from left, assistant trainer Mitchell Roberts, Ryan Wooldridge and head coach Pete Hickenbottom

Pitmen so cunning as Fox signs

DEFENDER Nathan Fox has signed a one-year contract with Hednesford Town.

The left-back, who has put in a number of good performances during pre-season, had been the subject of a seven-day approach from Halesowen Town.

The 25-year-old decided his future lay at Keys Park though and signed a contract for the 2018-19 campaign.

Manager Rob Smith said: "Nathan has looked very assured in pre-season which has prompted a lot of interest from other clubs.

"I'm delighted that he has decided he wants to be fully committed to Hednesford Town with the signing of this one-year deal.

"This gives us some real stability in a specialist position."

The Pitmen won 2-1 at Alvechurch in a pre-season friendly, with Josh March and Matt Dodd on target, preceded by a 0-0 draw against Brocton.

Wolves under-23s were visiting Keys Park on Tuesday night.

The Pitmen's Evo-Stik Northern Premier League trip to Gainsborough Trinity has been moved. Originally scheduled for Saturday April 20, 2019, the game will now take place on Good Friday, April 19, kicking off at 3pm.

● Chasetown were defeated 4-0 in a friendly at home to Stourbridge.

The Glassboys ran out with a wider victory margin than the game suggested.

A West Bromwich Albion XI were visiting the Scholars ground on Tuesday.

Ikeme lined up for a coaching role

CARL Ikeme is set to be offered a coaching role with Nigeria after announcing his retirement, it has been reported.

The 32-year-old former Wolves and Nigeria goalkeeper announced his retirement on Friday on medical advice after his battle with acute leukaemia.

Mohammed Sanusi, general secretary of Nigeria's Football Federation, said: "The NFF will find the resources to send Carl Ikeme on a coaching course, and afterwards absorb him into the technical crew of the Super Eagles."

Ikeme has been lauded as a 'brave, strong and loyal' keeper by fellow former Wolves shot-stopper Matt Murray.

FANS BRIGHTEN UP KEYS PARK

A 'call to arms' to freshen up Hednesford Town's ground was answered by an army of volunteers during the close season.

The makeover was organised by the Hednesford Town FC Supporters Association in a bid to make Keys Park as welcoming as possible.

Led by association committee man Kevin Fearn, a group of stalwarts banded together every Wednesday evening since the end of last season.

Their goal was to improve the appearance of the ground for the coming campaign.

Further specialist help has been given by travel club chairman Phil Raybould, who has been at the ground almost every day, helping to get the pitch in tip-top condition.

"It's great for players and supporters alike," Kevin proudly boasted.

Enthusiasm

Kevin compiled a list of improvements to be tackled over the summer months.

All of the tasks have been ticked off as, gradually, supporters have set to with real enthusiasm, Kevin being a firm believer that a great stadium is a great backdrop to a great playing surface.

"Supporters entering Keys Park will notice immediately the newly painted areas," he said.

"Walls, pathways and steps have all been given a first-class once-over. Repairs and improvements are everywhere to be seen.

"Behind the scenes, corridors and changing rooms have also received a makeover.

"It's our way of helping the club and team move forward, whilst making the ground pleasant for every supporter and every player. It's a great welcome to the club for all.

"There were too many to name individuals, but I would like to thank all those who gave up their time every week to help make Hednesford Town FC a better ground.

"Also, I would like to thank the club for contributing to the cost of materials."



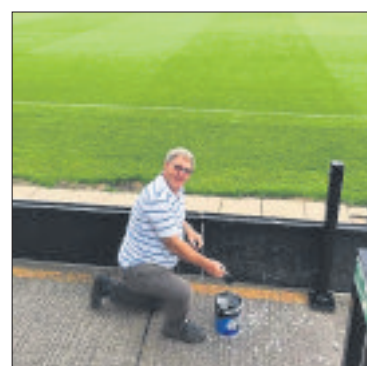
Mucking in - travel club chairman Phil Raybould



Super surface - groundsman David Bates



Stand proud - Roger Hawkins lends a hand



Big brush-up - supporter in charge Kevin Fearn

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